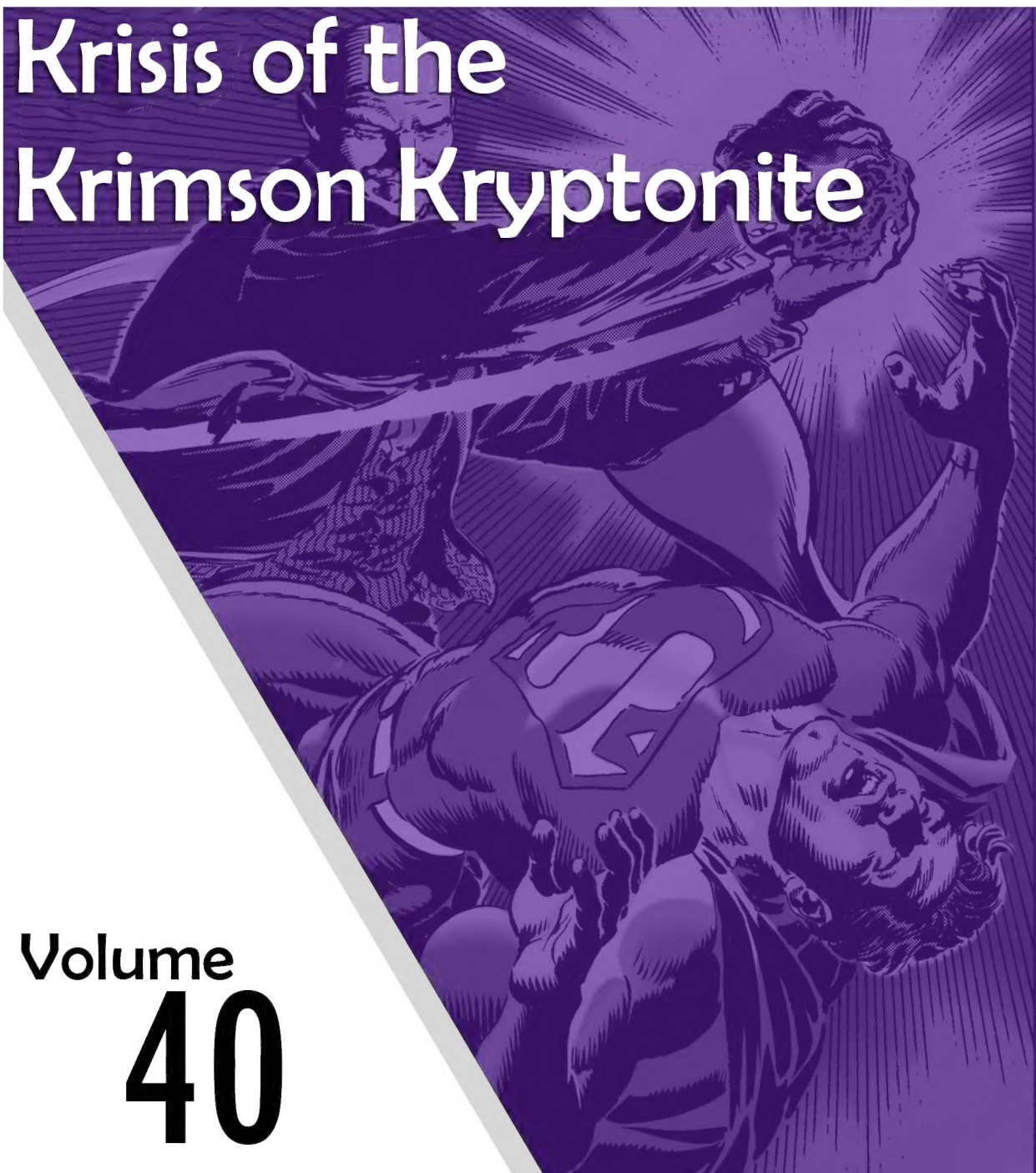
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite



Volume 40

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite 40

A CEMETERY IN NORTH BAKERLINE, A BOROUGH OF METROPOLIS, USA.

GRIEVING PARENTS PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE SON THEY CALLED JERRY...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DEAR GOD--IT ISN'T FAIR THAT OUR BOY SHOULD BE PUT TO REST IN THE FAMILY'S BURIAL PLOT *BEFORE* HIS PARENTS...

PERRY WHITE JUNIOR BORN NOV 28 19[illegible]

MEMORY

BENJAMIN SPENCER

JERRY ORDWAY · art & script
DENNIS JANKE · inking
GLENN WHITMORE · coloring
JOHN COSTANZA · lettering
JON PETERSON · associating
MIKE CARLIN · editing

THE *OTHER* WREATH-- IT'S *LUTHOR'S.*

PERRY, DON'T.

I WISH I *COULD* LET IT GO, ALICE...

...LEX BEING JERRY'S NATURAL FATHER...

...BUT I CAN'T.

WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS ONE DAY AT A TIME, DEAR.

IT'S ALMOST GALLING-- THE SON OF LEX LUTHOR LAID TO REST UNDER A TOMBSTONE BEARING THE NAME OF PERRY WHITE, JR.

WOULD THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY HAD I ACTED MY ROLE AS FATHER TO THE BOY? NO DOUBT HE'D STILL BE *ALIVE.*

AN HEIR TO MY FORTUNES WHEN THE CANCER INSIDE ME FINALLY TAKES ITS TOLL?

STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF, BALDY!

BONK!

C'MON, TUBBO, SNAP OUT OF IT AND SAY "HELLO" TO ME!

AUGH! WHAT IN BLAZES...?

WHO *DARED* TO THROW THIS *ROCK* AT *ME?*

HEY, *WATCH IT!* AND GET YOUR *FINGERS* OUT OF MY *NOSE!!*

HEY! NOW YOU'RE SQUISHING THE LIFE OUT OF ME!

WHAT KIND OF *TRICK*--?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT YOU CAN'T SQUEEZE RED KRYPTONITE FROM A STONE?

RED KRYPTONITE??

DON'T FRET, CHET, I'M ONLY DANGEROUS TO OUR MUTUAL PAL, SUPERMAN!

YOU STILL LOOK CONFUSED ABOUT WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH...

DOES THIS TRIGGER ANY MEMORY CHIPS?

MXYZPTLK!

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT WITH ME?

IT'S LIKE THIS--I'M REALLY **BUSY** HAVING FUN IN ANOTHER DIMENSION RIGHT NOW...

...BUT I'D *REALLY* HATE TO MISS MY QUARTERLY APPOINTMENT WITH SUPEY!

SINCE YOU AND I HAVE BECOME SUCH *FAST* FRIENDS, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT *TEAM UP!*

I DON'T NEED A PARTNER, IMP!

HEY, I'M OFFERING YOU A *LAST* CHANCE AT THE SUPESTER BEFORE YOU KICK THE *BIG* BUCKET!

THAT'S *IT!* I'VE HAD *ENOUGH!*

THE SECOND YOU LET ME GO, I'LL *EXPLODE* INTO THOUSANDS OF SHARDS...

WANNA LOOK LIKE SWISS CHEESE?

THAT'S BETTER. NOW, LAST TIME I TRIED TO GIVE YOU SOME OF THIS HOME-MADE RED K, YOU IGNORED IT! *

DON'T WASTE MY TIME. TELL ME WHAT THIS SUBSTANCE WILL DO!

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #463!

HERE'S THE DEAL -- THIS ROCK WILL MAKE YOU AND SUPER-DUPE PHYSICAL EQUALS.

IT'S YOUR BIG CHANCE TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH OUR "PAL."

AND THE HOOK?

NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT! A GAME'S NO FUN WITHOUT ANY RULES, NOW IS IT?

THIS ONE'S GOT ONE UNBREAKABLE RULE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN YOU TELL SUPEY THAT I'M INVOLVED IN THIS!

BUT WHY?

BECAUSE I'M MR. MXYZPTLK, DARN IT -- AND I MAKE THE RULES!

NOW I REALLY HAVE TO POP OUT OF HERE, KOJAK! REMEMBER THE RULE!

BLAST! IT'S JUST A ROCK AGAIN!

HARMLESS TO ME, HE SAYS -- I DON'T TRUST THAT MANIAC!

WELL, IF THIS WILL MAKE ME SUPERMAN'S EQUAL, IT MAY BE WORTH THE RISK, ESPECIALLY IN MY CONDITION!

MYRA, PUT THIS IN THE TRUNK, AND TAKE ME BACK TO THE TOWER!

BOSS ISN'T TOO WELL IF HE'S STARTED TALKING TO ROCKS!

"LOIS, COME HERE, MY DAY'S OFF TO A GOOD START!"

"DID YOU FIND THAT COPY OF 'TIME AND AGAIN' FOR YOUR DAD?"

Binder Books

DAILY PLANET

Re-Cycle

NO.

WHAT THEN, CLARK?

THE FINAL FATE OF MY NOVEL -- A REMAINDER TABLE!

ALL BOOK 40% O

REDUCE

the JANUS CONTRACT Clark Kent

DON'T BE GLUM. YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY -- STEPHEN KING, J.L. BYRNE...

I PAID FULL PRICE FOR THIS ONE!

FEAR BOOK

SCARY BOOK -- BUT YOU CAN READ MY COPY.

YOU! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

EXCUSE ME?

BESSIE -- BESSIE SHARP.

I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE!

WOULD YOU SIGN MY COPY OF JANUS CONTRACT, MR. KENT?

THAT HAD TO BE A REAL *EGO*-BOOSTER-- OR SHOULD I SAY *ALTER-EGO* BOOSTER, MR. REPORTER-SLASH-NOVELIST!

WELL, IT *DID* SOFTEN THE BLOW OF SEEING MY BOOK ON THAT TABLE!

ALTHOUGH THAT "*I KNOW WHO YOU ARE*" LINE GAVE ME QUITE A *PARANOID* START!

I HALF EXPECTED HER TO SAY, "*HELLO, SUPERMAN!*"

CLARK?

HOLD ON, LOIS. I RECOGNIZE SOMEONE!

CLARK! HEY, CLARK, HOW'RE YOU DOING? IT'S ME...

PETER ROSS! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE BIG APRICOT?

HA HA-- AN *AIRPLANE!*

SERIOUSLY, I'M WITH KANSAS SENATOR CALDWELL ON BUSINESS, AND I THOUGHT I'D DROP IN...

I MEANT TO CALL *YOU* TO SEE IF YOU KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO LANA LANG...

MY FOLKS HEARD SHE SOLD THE FARM AND LEFT SMALLVILLE.

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHY I CAME HERE...

SHE'S *OKAY*, ISN'T SHE, PETE?

OH, SURE. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY NONE OVER HER...

THING *IS*, FOR SOME REASON SHE DOESN'T WANT *YOU* TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS JUST YET...

THIS IS KIND OF *PRIVATE*...

UH, SURE...

LOIS, PHONE.

RECEPTION

ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN HERE

DAILY PLA

I'M EMBARRASSED TO ASK, BUT IS THERE *STILL* ANYTHING BETWEEN *YOU* AND LANA?

I MEAN, SHE SAYS YOU'RE JUST *FRIENDS*, BUT THIS BUSINESS WITH HER NOT WANTING YOU TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS--

SHE'S LIKE A *SISTER* TO ME...

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, CLARK...

BUT I *HOPE* I HAVEN'T LOST HER AS A FRIEND...

I GUESS I'M ASKING IF THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR ME TO COURT LANA...?

I--I *LOVE* HER, CLARK.

ROOM

LANA'S VERY SPECIAL...

GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.

THAT'S SWELL OF YOU TO SAY THAT. IT MEANS A LOT COMING FROM YOU...

ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN HERE

THANKS FOR THE CHAT, CLARK.

'BYE NOW.

SO LONG, PETE.

PLANET

WHERE'S LOIS?

SHE JUST *LEFT*...

MR. LUTHOR? I'VE RUN ALL THE TESTS YOU REQUESTED ON THE ROCK SAMPLE.

IT'S STRUCTURALLY SIMILAR TO THE KRYPTONITE WE ALREADY ANALYZED.

THEN DON'T COME ANY *CLOSER* WITH IT...

BUT, SIR, IT'S *NOT* RADIOACTIVE. IT *IS* IRIDESCENT, BUT IT'S COMPLETELY HARMLESS... UNLIKE GREEN K.

YOU'RE *SURE?*

OH, OF COURSE YOU'RE SURE -- YOU WOULDN'T HAVE DARED COME IN HERE IF IT WASN'T HARMLESS!

BRING IT TO ME...

YOU MAY NOW LEAVE, CARRIE.

AND TELL NADINE THAT I'M *NOT* TO BE DISTURBED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MORNING!

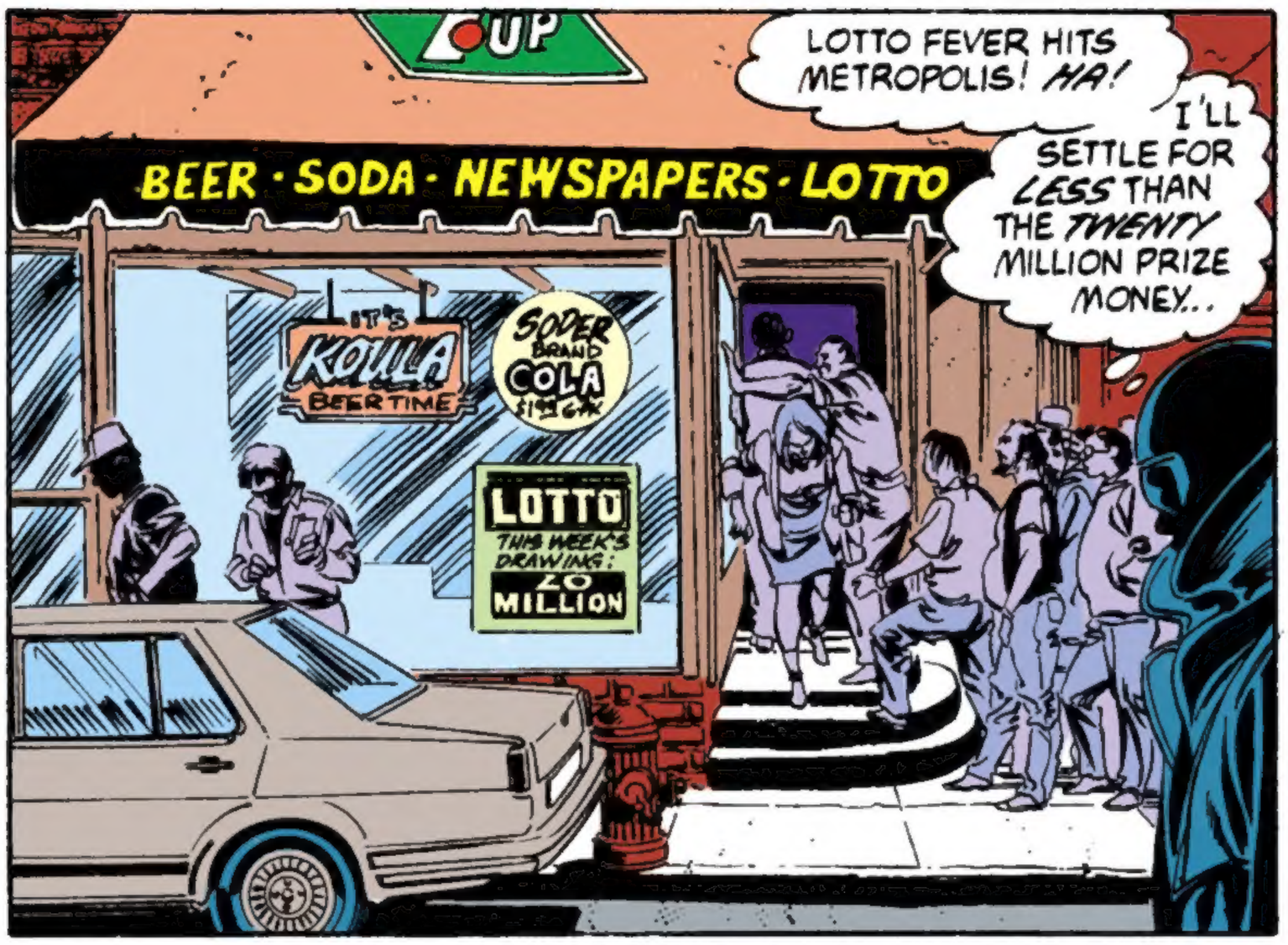
YES, SIR.

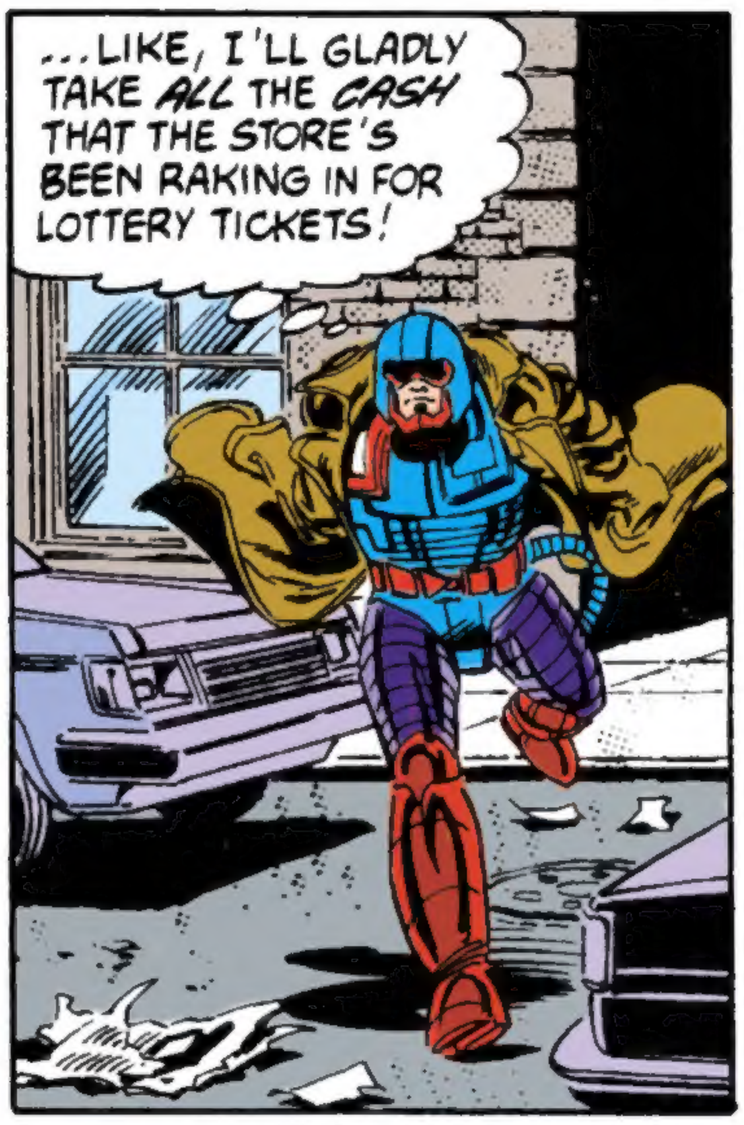
11:03

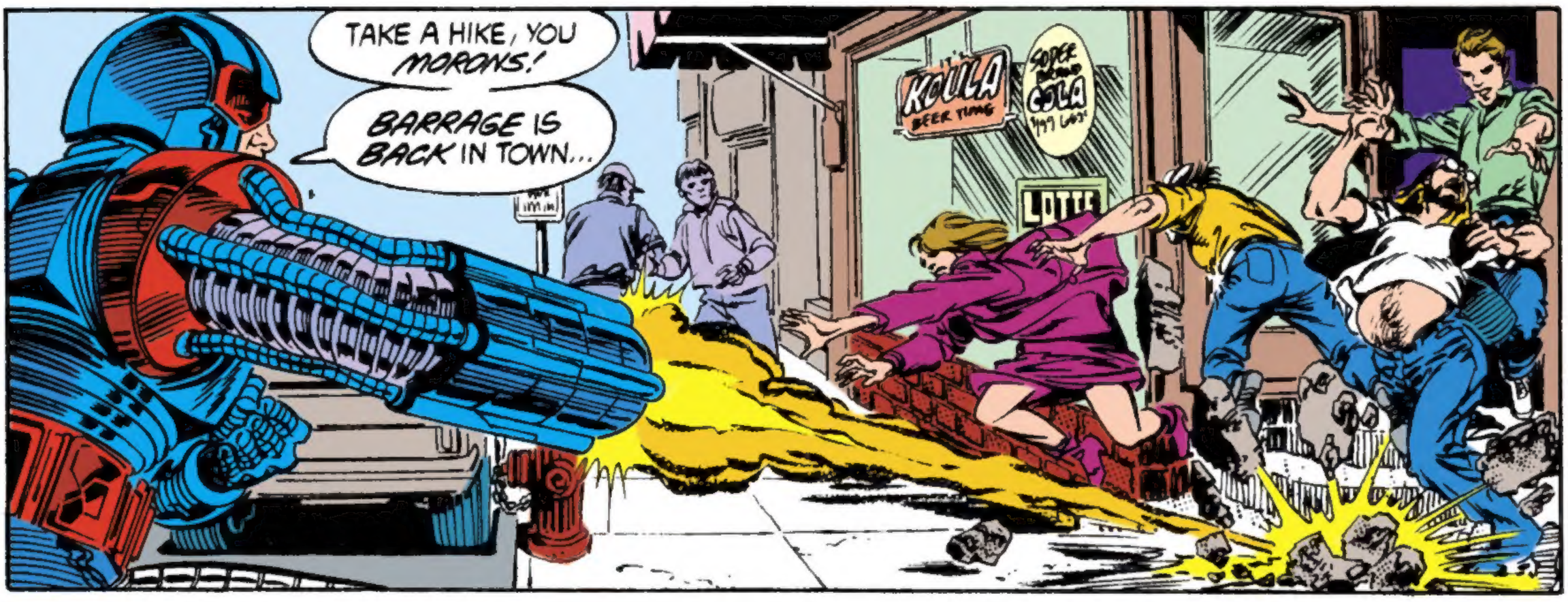
GREEN KRYPTONITE COST ME MY *RIGHT HAND*, AND SOON IT WILL COST ME MY *LIFE!*

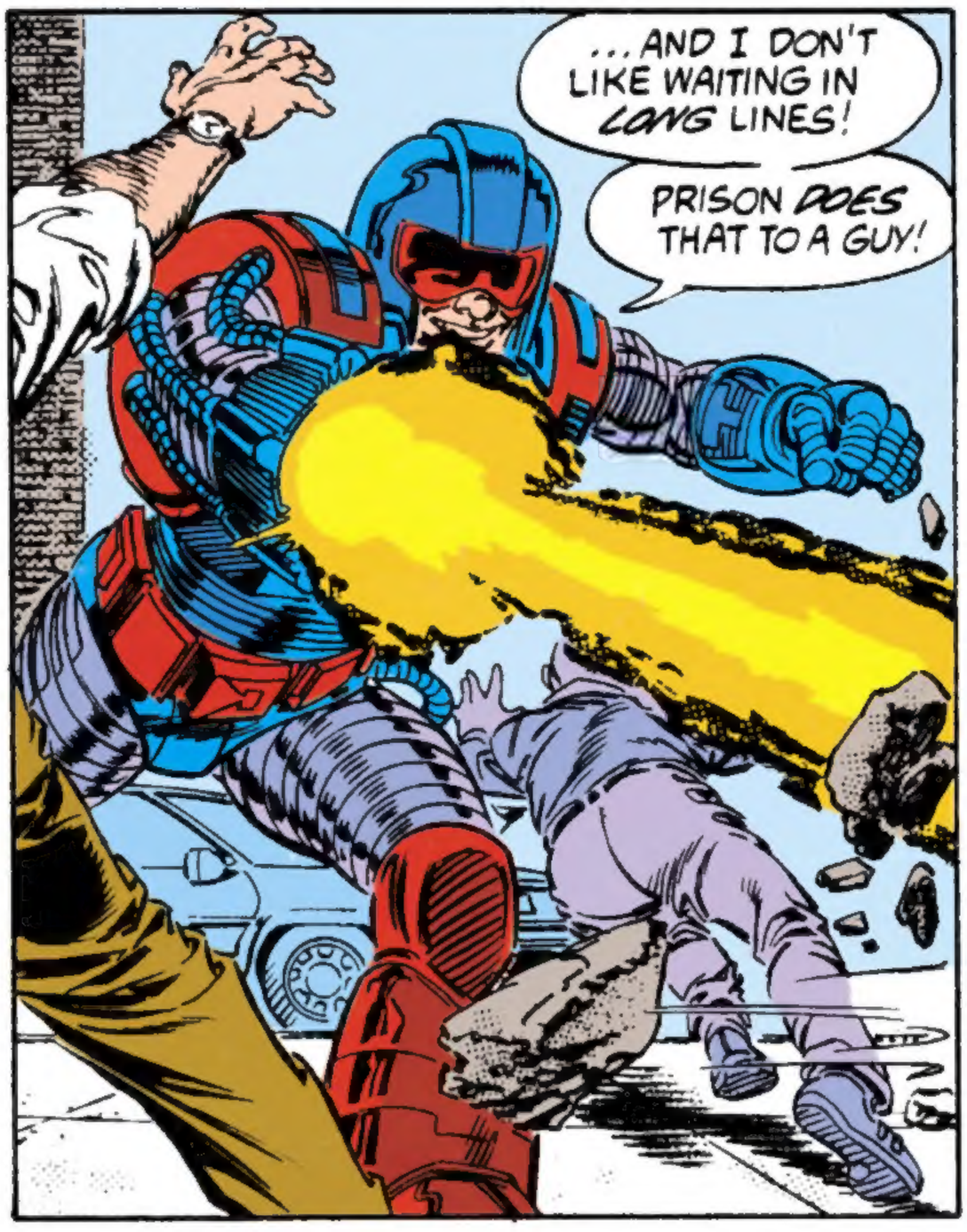
ALL THIS DUE TO THE RADIATION FROM A ROCK THAT WAS ONCE A PIECE OF *SUPERMAN'S* BIRTH PLANET!

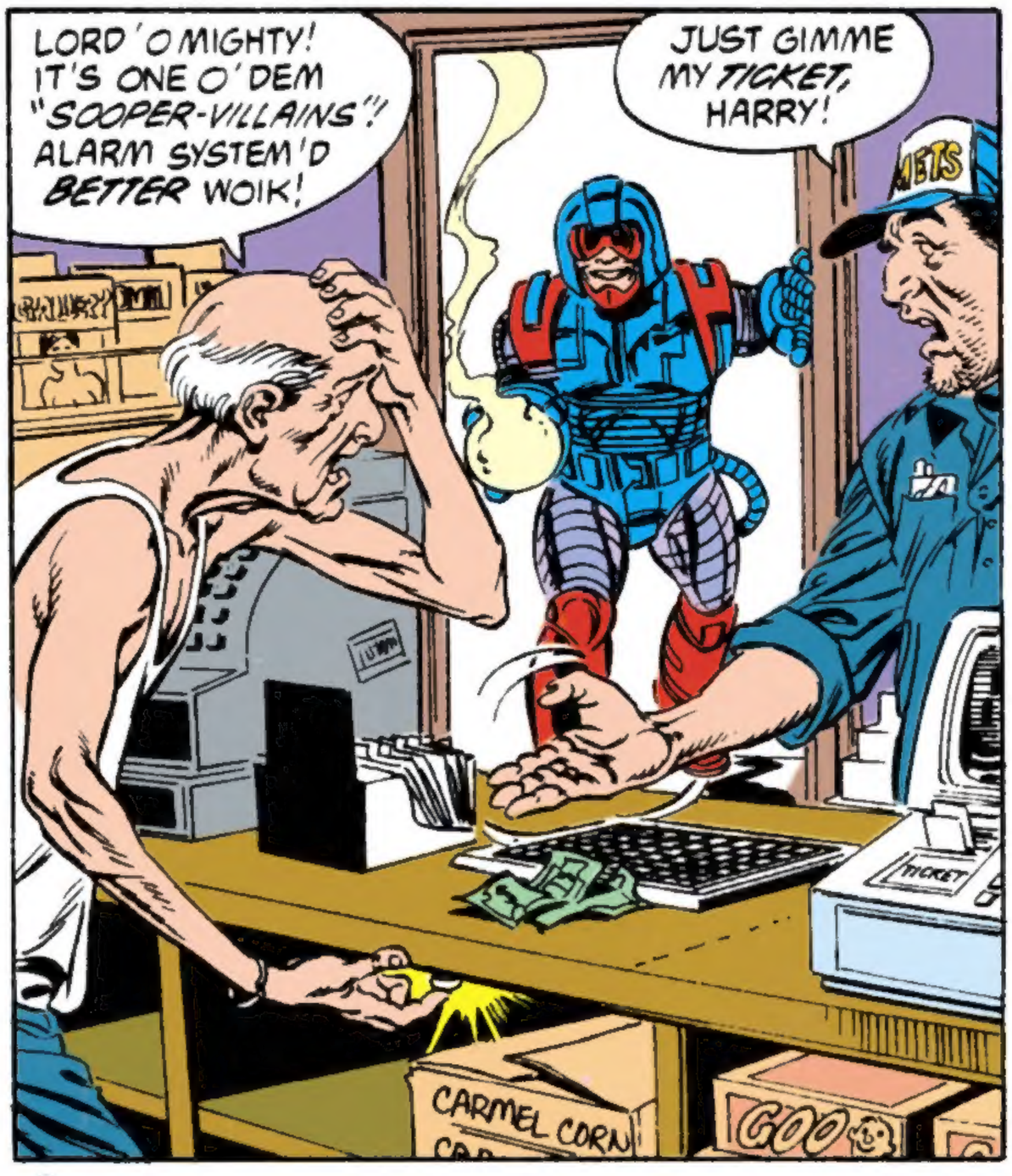
DO I DARE *TRUST* MXYZPTLK?


LOTTO FEVER HITS METROPOLIS! HA!
I'LL SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE TWENTY MILLION PRIZE MONEY...
BEER · SODA · NEWSPAPERS · LOTTO
IT'S KOOLA BEER TIME
SOOPER BRAND COLA
LOTTO
THIS WEEK'S DRAWING: 20 MILLION


...LIKE, I'LL GLADLY TAKE ALL THE CASH THAT THE STORE'S BEEN RAKING IN FOR LOTTERY TICKETS!


TAKE A HIKE, YOU MORONS!
BARRAGE IS BACK IN TOWN...
KOOLA BEER TIME
SOOPER BRAND COLA


...AND I DON'T LIKE WAITING IN LONG LINES!
PRISON DOES THAT TO A GUY!


LORD 'O MIGHTY! IT'S ONE O' DEM "SOOPER-VILLAINS"! ALARM SYSTEM'D BETTER WOIK!
JUST GIMME MY TICKET, HARRY!
METS
TICKET
CARMEL CORN
GOO

CAPTAIN SAWYER, SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.

YOU'RE KIDDING! YEAH, I REMEMBER BARRAGE -- I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL IN STIR!

CAPTAIN MARGARET SAWYER

LAST TIME OUT, BARRAGE PUT DAN TURPIN IN THE HOSPITAL! *

TOO BAD "TERRIBLE" IS OUT AT STRYKER'S ISLAND -- HE DESERVES THE FIRST CRACK AT THIS!

PHIL, RUSTY, LET'S SHAKE OUR TAILS!

* "In Private Lives", SUPERMAN ANNUAL #2

MEANWHILE...

FREELANCERS HAVE TIME TO DAYDREAM, HEY?

ACTUALLY, I'M TRYING TO LOCATE LOIS'S WHEREABOUTS USING MY SUPER-POWERS, ROBBIE.

THE RECEPTIONIST SAID SHE'D GOTTEN BAD NEWS RIGHT BEFORE SHE VANISHED.

I'M WORRIED THAT -- OH NO! SOME SUPER-POWERED MANIAC IS HOLDING HOSTAGES ON FORTY-THIRD AND BURNLEY!

THIS IS DEFINITELY A JOB FOR SUPERMAN...

ROBBIE, ALICE -- IF YOU SEE LOIS, TELL HER TO CALL ME AT HOME.

UH, SURE CLARK...

"...WE'LL TELL HER YOU HAD TO FLY OUTTA HERE."

OKAY, MXYZPTLK -- HOW DO I MAKE THIS ROCK OF YOURS WORK?

RUB ME LIKE A LAMP, ALADDIN!

:sigh: I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS...

"... THIS REALLY OFFENDS ME!

7 UP

THANK GOD, THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT'S HERE!

SCU POLICE

SERGEANT, HAVE YOUR MEN FALL BACK TO A ONE HUNDRED FOOT PERIMETER!

GOTCHA, CAPTAIN SAWYER.

POLICE

OKAY, BARRAGE-- GIVE UP YOUR HOSTAGE AND SURRENDER YOURSELF!

POLICE

YOU'RE HERE ALL ALONE, EH, GIRLIE?

WHERE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND *TURPIN*? I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR HIM!

LET HIM GO.

DERS.

BEAT IT, POPS!

I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU, TOO.

OH GEEZ, RUSTY!

MAGGIE'S POWER CABLE'S SHOT!

S.C.U.

SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT

POLICE

DRAW, COPPER!

MY WEAPON'S NOT WORKING!

YOU HESITATE--YOU DIE!

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'D JUST *BET* THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A *PERMIT* FOR THAT WEAPON!

ZZZLASH

SUPERMAN! WAS *THAT* GOOD TIMING, OR *WHAT??*

ISN'T THERE A *CELL* AT STRYKER'S WITH YOUR NAME ON IT?

DIDN'T LIKE THE NEIGHBORS--DECIDED TO MOVE...

GOOD LORD. THAT GUN OF HIS IS A PROSTHESIS!

THIS DRAI

MILL

YOU'RE GOING BACK, PAL!

H-HOW'D YOU MOVE SO *FAST?*

SKRUNCH

I DON'T KNOW--RACING THE *FLASH* KEEPS ME IN SHAPE?

OKAY, IMP! MAKE LEX LUTHOR AND SUPERMAN *EQUALS!*

HE WOULD'VE TURNED ME INTO *TOAST* IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP!

POWER CABLE WAS RUN OVER BY ONE OF THE POLICE CRUISERS.

WANT ME TO DROP HIM AT THE "*ISLAND*"?

YEAH, THANKS. DOWNTOWN *VAULTS* ARE FULL UP!

TAKE IT EASY, MAGGIE.

THANKS AGAIN, BIG BLUE!

UHHHH

CRIMES UNIT

POLICE

AWAKE, EH?

MIND TELLING ME SOMETHING? WHAT DID THAT ROBBERY ATTEMPT GET YOU, BUT A TRIP BACK TO JAIL?

WHAT ARE *YOU*-- MY CONFESSOR?

I WANTED SOME QUICK CASH, THEN THAT *WITCH* SHOWED!

I WANTED TO WASTE HER *SO* BAD...

"...SHE COST ME MY RIGHT ARM, MAN!"

AS I RECALL, OFFICERS FIRED ON YOU *AFTER* YOU HAD SERIOUSLY INJURED DAN TURPIN.

THEY BLEW MY ARM OFF! THINK *THAT* WAS ANY FUN?

AHHH, YOU'RE SUPER*DUDE*. WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT *PAIN*?

PAIN'S A PART OF *LIFE*.

NOT FOR YOU, MAN.

HEY, IF YOU WERE ANYONE ELSE, I'D HAVE TRIED TO BREAK FREE BY NOW...

OHHH--WHAT HIT ME? FEEL WEAK AS A KITTEN...

HEY! WHY'RE YOU LOOSENING YOUR GRIP? THIS ISN'T *FUNNY*...

C'MON, WE'RE OVER THE WATER-- CUT IT--

I'M NOT ABLE TO *STAY ALOFT*...

MY *POWERS* JUST CUT OUT...

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING *ON* HERE?

YEEEEEOW

SPLASH

LUCKY FOR ME THAT THIS SUIT'S *NOT* MADE OF *METAL*!

SUPER-DUDE'S TAKING IN SOME WATER!

POLICE

NOT SO *TOUGH* NOW...

MAYBE THIS *ISN'T* REALLY *HIM*...

COULD BE A COP DUDED UP LIKE SUPES!

BOY, DO I *HATE* COPS! EH? WHAT'S *THAT*?

WELL, WELL! LOOKIE WHAT WE *CAUGHT*, MIKE!

IT'S OUR ESCAPEE, ALL RIGHT!

METROPOL
MPD 410
POL

WE SAW YOU AND SUPERMAN HIT THE WATER...

:KAFF: :KAFF:!

I KILLED HIM!

AH, AH, AH, TIN MAN--I THINK *MINE'S* BIGGER!

WHERE'S SUPERMAN?

:ULP: TURPIN?

HE'S UNDER-WATER!

WATCH HIM, MIKE!

I'M GONNA SEARCH FOR THE BIG GUY!

TURPIN!

"I'M WORRIED SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!"

WHY DON'T I *FEEL* ANY STRONGER, *NXYZPTLK*?

IT'S ALL RELATIVE, LEXY.

IF SUPEY WAS *STANDING* NEXT TO YOU...

WE MUST FIND HIM, THEN!

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, FATTY!

NOTHING, DAN?

METROPOLIS MPD

WATER'S PRETTY MURKY, BUT NO, NO SIGN OF THE BIG PALOOKA!

MUST'VE LIT OFF AFTER *ANOTHER* BADGUY!

HE *DID* DUMP BARRAGE BACK INTO OUR HANDS...

YEAH--BUT NOW WE'VE GOT TO HEAD *BACK* TO STRYKER'S!

POLICE

"STILL DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR SUPES TO UNLOAD THIS GUY A HALF-MILE FROM THE ISLAND!"

:KUFF: :KUFF: --LUTHOR?

SOAKING WET? WHERE THE DEVIL DID MXY2PTLK PLUCK HIM FROM?

WELL, NO MATTER...

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SUPERMAN'S EQUAL, BUT IT'S BETTER I TEST THAT THEOREM ON SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN MY ENEMY...

...SUCH AS MY DESKTOP!

WHAM!

YEARGH! THE IMP *LIED!*

BONK

OUCH!

"OUCH"?

I MUST BE *SLIPPING* FOR NOT FIGURING THIS SOONER...

...I DIDN'T *GAIN* POWER-- *HE JUST LOST HIS!*

I'VE HAD A *LOT* OF FRUSTRATIONS LATELY...

...I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY TAKING THEM OUT ON YOU!

THOUGH IT'S HARDLY FAIR FOR ME TO BEAT YOU WITH A ROCK...

...OR EVEN THIS METAL-ALLOY MONSTROSITY I CALL A HAND!

LET'S TRY THIS MAN TO MAN.

WHY ARE YOU DOING...

...*THIS?* IT'S SIMPLE.

I *DESPISE* YOU, AND ALL THAT YOU STAND FOR!

NOT EVERYONE IN THIS CITY'S TAKEN IN BY YOUR *PUBLIC* IMAGE...

...THEIR NUMBERS ARE GROWING -- THOSE WHO SEE THROUGH YOU.

I WON'T REST UNTIL *EVERYONE* KNOWS WHAT A POWER-HUNGRY *USER* OF PEOPLE LEX LUTHOR IS.

COUNT ON IT!

AUGHH!

I'VE BUILT THIS EMPIRE BY BEING A GOOD JUDGE OF MY ENEMIES' MOTIVATIONS -- GREED, JEALOUSY, LUST FOR POWER...

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT THOSE EMOTIONS DO NOT EXIST IN *YOU*...

...BENEATH THAT *GOODY-TWO-SHOES* EXTERIOR.

DO YOU DO IT FOR THE "*HERO-WORSHIP*," OR ARE THERE ULTERIOR MOTIVES?

THE POINT IS MOOT, THOUGH. RED KRYPTONITE HAS INDEED TAKEN THE "*SUPER*" OUT OF THE MAN!

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T KILL YOU...

THAT WOULD BE EXCESSIVE.

YOU'RE ONLY TRESPASSING, AND I'M ONLY DEFENDING MYSELF FROM YOUR ATTACK!

PEARL, SEND *SECURITY* TO MY OFFICE.

WHEN WORD SPREADS THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWERS, THERE WILL BE PLENTY WHO'LL COME GUNNING FOR YOU...

I'D ADVISE A *LOW PROFILE.*

WHAT'S UP, MR. LUTHOR?

"PLEASE SHOW THIS MAN TO THE DOOR!"

WELL HEY!

MY HEAD'S SPINNING-- HOW DID LEX DO THIS?

IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST...

THINK, CLARK, *THINK!*

IS *THAT* REALLY SUPERMAN?

CAN'T BE.

WHY DOESN'T HE FLY AWAY?

LOOKS *SICK* TO ME!

GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!

HEY! MELT MY WATCH WITH YOUR *HEAT VISION!*

PLEASE--I'M HURT--LET ME THROUGH...

METS

YO! REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAVED MY FRIEND'S COUSIN FROM DROWNING AT...

YER SOOPERMAN, AIN'T CHA?

PLEASE, I MUST GET AWAY...

WHAT--ARE YA TOO GOOD TA TALK TA US?

WHY'S HE WALKIN'!?

LET ME THROUGH...

WHERE'D YOU GET THOSE BRUISES?

JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS

TAXI

SUPERMAN?

LOBO'S PAL

DOWN IN LEXCORP PLAZA?

HEY THERE, FOLKS--CAN'T YOU *HEAR* OR SOMETHING?

THE *MAN* NEEDS HIS *SPACE!* BACK OFF!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED A *CAB.*

I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE *GENUINE* ARTICLE, BUT I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE!

WHERE TO? *S.T.A.R.* LABS OR SOMETHING?

TAXI

I-- HAVE NO MONEY TO--

FORGET IT, SUPES. WHERE TO?

CAN YOU TAKE ME TO CLINTON STREET?

JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS

650

ANYWHERE ON THE THREE-HUNDRED BLOCK. HOW'D YOUR *RIBS* HEAL, MARLON?

HEY, IT *IS* YOU! THIS "*SOUVENIR*" IS A PIECE OF MY OLD CAB!

I WAS PINNED BEHIND THE WHEEL-- BUSTED UP INSIDE -- WHEN THAT DRUNKEN DRIVER PLOWED INTO ME!

I WAS ALWAYS IMPRESSED THAT YOU TOOK TIME FOR ORDINARY "*JOES*" LIKE ME!

HERE'S CLINTON, SUPES!

YOU PROVED THE OLD ADAGE, "*YOU GIVE WHAT YOU GET*," MARLON. THANKS.

I'D HOPED THAT BY PUTTING SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND THAT "*RED K*" I'D REGAIN MY POWERS...

BURNS ELECTRIC

JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS

650

...BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK LIKE NORMAL KRYPTONITE!

RATS! MY "*CIVVIES*" ARE STILL SOAKING WET!

WELL, I CAN'T WALK INTO MY BUILDING DRESSED AS SUPERMAN, SO..

SORRY, MISTER, BUT YOU CAN'T GET IN UNLESS-- *MISTER KENT*??

ARE YOU WORKING UNDER-COVER ON A *STORY*, OR SOME-THING?

UM, SOMETHING LIKE THAT--YES.

LOIS? THE DOORMAN WARNED ME THAT HE LET A FRIEND OF MINE UP HERE...

CLARK! I WAS JUST WRITING YOU A NOTE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? ARE YOU HURT?

WERE YOU MUGGED?

LET'S JUST SAY I HAD A *RUN-IN* WITH SOMEBODY.

I'VE *GOT* TO BE ALONE TO SORT OUT ALL THAT WENT DOWN.

BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL ASK HER TO LEAVE.

YOUR CLOTHES ARE *SOAKED!* WHAT HAPPENED?

OH, NEVER MIND-- JUST GET *OUT* OF THEM AND INTO A *HOT TUB!*

AT LEAST A HOT *SHOWER*. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT, LOIS, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

NONSENSE. I'LL FIX US SOME COCOA.

ALL THESE YEARS I'VE WANTED TO BE CLOSER TO LOIS, AND NOW I'M TRYING TO GET RID OF HER...

OUCH! WHOLE BODY HURTS--EVEN MY KNUCKLES ARE SORE FROM THAT FIGHT WITH LEX!

MAYBE MY FRIEND EMIL HAMILTON CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY POWERS...

IS THIS STUFF TIED TO THE FAKE KRYPTONITE THAT I FOUND NEAR LOCH TREVOR? IS IT MAN-MADE, OR DID LEX *FIND* IT SOMEWHERE?

CAN'T STAND BY AND ALLOW LUTHOR TO *ROB* ME OF MY POWERS!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I MADE US SOME SANDWICHES. I SKIPPED LUNCH, AND...

...YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD USE SOMETHING TO EAT AS WELL.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I *AM* REALLY *STARVING!*

MMMMM, PEANUT BUTTER?

IT WAS ALL YOU HAD IN THE FRIDGE BESIDES *SOUR* MILK.

TYPICAL BACHELOR!

CLARK, I CAME HERE BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE *ELSE* TO TURN.

I'VE BEEN AT THE HOSPITAL SINCE THIS MORNING WHEN I LEFT YOU. IT'S MY *MOM.*

CLARK, SHE'S *DYING* AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE A ROCK DURING TOUGH TIMES...

I NEED THAT *NOW*...

IT *DOESN'T* TAKE *SUPER*-POWERS TO LEND *STRENGTH* IN TIME OF *NEED* TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE...

WE'LL FIND A WAY TO HELP YOUR MOTHER, LOIS. I *PROMISE* YOU...

THIS STORY CONTINUES IN *ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN* #472 AND THEN *ACTION COMICS* #659, JUNIOR! BUT BE BACK HERE IN THIRTY DAYS FOR A SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED FIFTIETH ISSUE FEATURING THE TALENTS OF *ORDWAY, SWAN, JURGENS, BYRNE, JANKE, GAMMILL,* AND *BREEDING!* BE HERE THEN FOR THE *BIG QUESTION* AND THE *BIG ANSWER!* YUP . . . *SUPERMAN* #50 IS *THE* BIG ONE!

CLARK KENT ..MAN OF STEEL!

O'GRADY TRUCKING

MY SUPER-POWERS HAVE TOTALLY *DISAPPEARED*--

--AND I'M HANGING UPSIDE DOWN WAITING FOR *MAMMOTH* TO RIP MY HEAD OFF!

CAN THINGS POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE?

DAN JURGENS : STORY
DAN JURGENS : LAYOUTS
ART THIBERT : FINISHES
ALBERT DE GUZMAN : LETTERS
GLENN WHITMORE : COLORS
JON PETERSON : ASSOCIATE
MIKE CARLIN : EDITOR
JERRY SIEGEL : CREATOR
JOE SHUSTER : CREATOR

SPECIAL THANKS TO TREVOR SCOTT

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 472 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510 Annual subscription rate $9.00, Canada $14.00, all other foreign $21.00. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1990 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

G-5890

ACTUALLY THINGS WILL GET A LOT WORSE IF MAMMOTH REALIZES I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GUY NOW!

GOTTA KEEP BLUFFING HIM-- MAKE SURE HE KEEPS PLAYING IT CAUTIOUS!

GRADY TRUCKING

C'MON, MAMMOTH! DON'T YOU REALIZE TYING ME UP LIKE THIS IS LIKE TRYING TO LASSO A TORNADO!

MAMMOTH NOT CARE! MAMMOTH IS GOING TO KILL SUPERMAN!

SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

GOOD-- HE'S STILL BABBLING-- AFRAID TO PRESS THE ATTACK!

ALL MAMMOTH WANTED WAS TO GET HIS SISTER A BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

BUT YOU AND THE POLICE *ATTACKED* MAMMOTH! TRIED TO *CRUSH* HIM!

NOW MAMMOTH IS *MAD*!

LET'S SEE HOW SUPERMAN LOOKS WEARING *THIS* FER A HAT!

METROPOLIS SEWER REPAIR

UH-OH... WORDS AREN'T GOING TO HOLD HIM OFF ANY MORE!

HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TODAY MIGHT WIND UP EVEN WORSE THAN IT STARTED!

OH, BROTHER! EVERY BONE, EVERY MUSCLE, EVERY CELL IN MY BODY IS ON FIRE!

THE WAY LUTHOR KICKED ME AROUND YESTERDAY, I WAS LUCKY TO GET BY WITH A FEW BRUISES.

HE EITHER DEVELOPED OR FOUND A CHUNK OF A GLOWING ROCK HE CALLED *RED KRYPTONITE*--

--AND HE USED IT TO SOMEHOW *STEAL* MY POWERS!

SUDDENLY I'M CLARK KENT --*NORMAL-MAN*!

AT LEAST I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP THINGS LIKE THIS SHAVING KIT AROUND FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE!

NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEONE MIGHT LOOK IN YOUR MEDI--

OWWWCH!

SHAVING NICKS ARE CERTAINLY NEW--AND PAINFUL TO ME!

EVEN THOUGH I LIVED THE FIRST YEARS OF MY LIFE AS ONE--

--I'D *FORGOTTEN* WHAT IT MEANS TO FEEL UTTERLY *HUMAN*!

THE PROSPECT OF NEVER FLYING OR BENDING IRON AGAIN DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME AT ALL!

I ALWAYS FELT IT WAS CLARK KENT WEARING THE CAPE... BUT LET'S FACE IT...

...CLARK KENT *IS* SUPERMAN. AND RIGHT NOW--

--SUPERMAN NEEDS HELP.

BOOOP BWEEP DOOP

SUPERMAN?! GOOD GOLLY, MAN, THIS IS A SURPRISE!

YOU'VE RARELY PHONED--USUALLY YOU JUST DROP... ER... FLY IN THE WINDOW!

LET'S JUST SAY THE OLD METHODS MAY PROVE MORE DIFFICULT THESE DAYS.

I NEED YOUR HELP, PROFESSOR HAMILTON. IF YOU'LL BE IN YOUR LAB IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, I'D LIKE TO TALK.

GLAD TO, SUPERMAN! I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!

THANKS, EMIL. SEE YOU SOON. :CLICK:

THAT WAS ONE TROUBLED MAN ON THE PHONE.

MY STARS. WHAT'S GONE WRONG FOR HIM NOW?

OH, GREAT! LOOK AT THE TIME!

I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET LOIS AT THE HOSPITAL TEN MINUTES AGO! USED TO BE I COULD FLY THERE IN SECONDS--

--BUT THOSE DAYS ARE LONG GONE!

TAXI!

HOLD ON, MR. KENT. I'LL FLAG YA ONE IN A JIF!

344 CLINTON

$6.50, M'MAN.

THANKS... HERE'S EIGHT.

TAXI

LOIS... SORRY, I'M LATE--

--BUT IT JUST COULDN'T BE HELPED! HOW'S YOUR MOTHER?

HANGIN' IN THERE. NO BETTER, NO WORSE.

UNFORTUNATELY THE DOCTORS ARE NOT SURE OF WHAT COURSE TO TAKE NEXT.

ALL *WE* CAN DO IS PRAY.

DAD... YOU REMEMBER CLARK KENT?

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. LANE.

LIKEWISE, SON. AND MAKE IT SAM.

SAY-- YOU BEEN IN A FIGHT LATELY?

UHH... NOT REALLY. JUST THE BYPRODUCT OF A LITTLE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM.

JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR! I SPEND HALF MY DAYS WORRYING ABOUT LOIS AND THE TROUBLE SHE'S ALWAYS GETTING IN!

NOW, DAD...

SINCE LOIS WAS A KID DAD'S BEEN CALLING HER *DANGER MOUSE!*

SOUNDS APPROPRIATE TO ME, LUCE.

C'MON, DAD... I DOUBT CLARK WANTS TO HEAR YOUR LONELY OLD MAN ROUTINE!

I'M TELLING YOU, CLARK, YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* HOW MUCH A FATHER WORRIES ABOUT HIS GIRLS!

GOTCHA, KIDDO. IT'S JUST THAT YOUR MOTHER...

EASY, DAD! SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY!

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR IS TRYING TO GET HOLD OF LEX LUTHOR.

LUTHOR?! WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

SORRY... THIS IS NOT MY FAVORITE SUBJECT... BUT--

--WELL, WE *ARE* GETTING A LOT CLOSER!

MOM'S ACCIDENT OCCURRED A COUPLE YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS A SECRETARY AT A CHEMICAL PLANT.

THERE WAS A *FREAK* EXPLOSION THAT DOUSED HER IN CHEMICALS AND ALMOST *KILLED* HER!

LUTHOR CAME TO ME--TOLD ME THAT THE PLANT WAS A SUBSIDIARY OF HIS AND THAT HE COULD HELP.

THE DOCTORS WERE *HELPLESS*, BUT LUTHOR PERSONALLY DEVELOPED A SERUM THAT SAVED HER LIFE!

WE'D HOPED THE SERUM WOULD WORK *PERMANENTLY*, BUT SHE NEEDED A FRESH DOSE EVERY MONTH.

IN THE MEANTIME I'VE DREADED THE DAY LUTHOR MIGHT ASK FOR *PAYMENT*!

"MIGHT"? LOIS, DO REALIZE THE MESS YOU'RE IN? LUTHOR CAN *BLACK-MAIL* YOU ANY TIME HE WANTS!

ONLY IF I LET HIM. I'VE NEVER APPEASED HIM AND HE'S NEVER MENTIONED IT!

BUT IF THE SERUM WORKED, WHY IS YOUR MOTHER HERE?

NO SMO

747

LANE

THE SERUM LOST ITS EFFECTIVENESS... PROBABLY GROWN IMMUNE! AND IF THE DOCTORS CAN'T HELP HER--

-- I'LL DO WHAT-EVER I HAVE TO...

--EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING TO LUTHOR AGAIN!

IF I WAS IN LOIS'S POSITION I'D MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL, TOO!

BLAST IT! WHY DOES EVERYTHING ALWAYS BOIL DOWN TO *LUTHOR*?

INCLUDING THIS *MESS*!

STOP SWINGIN' SO MUCH! MAMMOTH CAN'T HIT A MOVIN' TARGET!

GOOD THING THIS GUY IS STUPID OR I'D BE HAMBURGER BY NOW!

OOO, MAMMOTH IS GONNA BE *FAMOUS*!

GONNA BE THE GUY WHAT *SNUFFED* SUPERMAN!

HEY, GENIUS! GIVE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE A BREAK--

--OR I'LL *BUST* YOU FOR BUTCHERING THAT, TOO!

NOW, UNLESS YOU DROP THAT TRACTOR AND GIVE YOURSELF UP--

--I'M GONNA FRY THIS WHOLE BLOCK AND YOU *WITH IT*!

HAWW! STUPID POLICE WEAPONS CAN'T HURT MAMMOTH!

IF MAMMOTH CAN *CRUSH* SOMEONE LIKE *SUPERMAN*--

--WHAT CHANCE DO PUNY POLICE HAVE?

LOOKS LIKE I'M A GONER EITHER WAY.

MAGGIE SAWYER FULLY EXPECTS THAT SHE CAN OPEN UP AND HAVE SUPERMAN SURVIVE!

MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED, TOO... EXCEPT THE FORCE FIELD BELT HAMILTON GAVE ME WENT ON THE FRITZ!

HAMILTON ISN'T EXPECTING CLARK KENT TO COME IN HIS BACK WAY--

--HE'S WAITING FOR *SUPERMAN.*

AIEEE! WEIRDO! FREAK!

MAN CAN'T EVEN STEAL A NAP WIDDOUT SUM SICKO COMIN' BY!

I'M SO USED TO CHANGING AT SUPER SPEED--

--THAT I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO CHECK MORE THAN THE IMMEDIATE AREA!

I'M SO INTO THE ROUTINE OF LIVING WITH SUPERHUMAN POWERS THAT I KEEP OVERLOOKING THE OBVIOUS!

AND THAT BETTER STOP *SOON.*

PROFESSOR, IF EVER I NEEDED YOUR EXPERTISE--

--I NEED IT *NOW.*

SUPERMAN?! IN THE FREIGHT ELEVATOR?

I MUST SAY, THIS CERTAINLY DOES NOT BODE WELL!

FOR THE LAST TWO HOURS I'VE RUN EVERY DIAGNOSTIC TEST POSSIBLE! UNFORTUNATELY--

--THE RESULTS POINT TO ONE TROUBLING, INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION.

YOU, SUPERMAN, ARE NOW AN *ORDINARY* HUMAN BEING!

YEAH, BUT IF YOU COULD FIND OUT HOW MY POWERS WERE TAKEN, IT MIGHT HELP US GET THEM *BACK*!

IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY.

THERE IS NO RESIDUAL RADIATION-- NO EVIDENCE OF THE ELEMENT THAT ERASED YOUR ABILITIES!

AND NOW YOUR BIO-SCAN READS THE SAME AS ANY GUY OFF THE STREET!

OKAY, BUT ISN'T THERE A MACHINE YOU CAN BUILD OR CHEMICAL YOU CAN TREAT ME WITH--

--THAT WILL *RESTORE* MY POWERS?

I CAN'T GIVE YOU SUPER-POWERS ANY MORE THAN I COULD MYSELF!

HOW? YOU MUST REALIZE I AM *NOT* A MAGICIAN!

BUT I'M NOT HUMAN-- I'M *KRYPTONIAN*!

NOT ACCORDING TO MY DATA! YOUR PHYSIOLOGY IS NOW THAT OF AN ORDINARY *EARTH* MAN!

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT I'M STUCK LIKE THIS *FOREVER*?

NO--

--I'M SAYING THAT FOR THE MOMENT I'M COMPLETELY *BAMBOOZLED*!

BUT, PROFESSOR, IF YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING--WHO CAN?

HECK, WITHOUT MY POWERS I CAN'T EVEN GET INTO MY FORTRESS!

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH--

"--ALL THE GUYS WHO'VE TRIED TO KILL ME--

WHITNEY

WHITNEY JEWELERS

"--A SIMPLE RED ROCK HAS ROBBED THE WORLD OF ITS SUPERMAN?"

NO.

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

"I WON'T LET THIS CITY FALL PREY TO THE CONSTANT STREAM OF WACKOS THAT KEEP SHOWING UP!

"I CAN'T LET THIS WORLD SUCCUMB TO DISASTER LIKE KRYPTON DID...

"I KNOW I DON'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO SOLVING A FRACTION OF ALL THE REAL PROBLEMS OUT THERE--

"--BUT A SUPERMAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SALE

"A SUPERMAN CAN HANDLE THINGS THE POLICE CAN'T.

"YOU KNOW, THE BIG STUFF.

"THE BAD STUFF!"

HEY...

OH, MY G--!

NAME'S HARRIS- METROPOLIS *POLICE*! CALL 911 AND TELL 'EM YOU GOT A CLASS ONE PERP IN HERE!

HAWW! THAT'S ME, ALL RIGHT! *CLASS ONE*!

IF YOU ASK ME, PAL-- *STUPID* ONE IS MORE LIKE IT!

YOU SHOULD KNOW EVERY COP IN TOWN WOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR MUG FROM THE ACTIVE FILES!

ESPECIALLY ONE OF MAGGIE SAWYER'S *META-HUMAN* SPECIALISTS!

BIG DEAL!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BRING IN--

SNAP

--MAMMOTH?!

WUFF!

SKRUNCH

ALL MAMMOTH WANTED WAS TO SWIPE A NECKLACE FOR SISTER'S BIRTHDAY!

MORON COP HADDA *RUIN* IT AND NOW HE'S GONNA PAY!

YOU'RE ALL GONNA *PAY BIG*!

"BELIEVE ME, SUPERMAN, I UNDERSTAND YOUR *FRUSTRATIONS*! BUT, IF YOU GIVE ME TIME--

--PERHAPS I CAN DEVISE SOMETHING THAT--! HEY! SOUNDS LIKE SIRENS!

LOTS OF THEM! MUST BE TROUBLE--BIG TROUBLE OUT THERE!

THE ACTION IS JUST OUT OF SIGHT! IF ONLY I HAD MY TELESCOPIC VISION!

SO, WE'LL USE THE NEXT BEST THING!

A TELESCOPE? LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

BLAST! FOCUSSING MY OWN VISION POWERS NEVER TOOK THIS LON--

THERE! HEY, THAT'S MAGGIE SAWYER'S SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT!

OH, NO.

NOT NOW. NOT HIM!

JEWE

RARRRRRGH!

"NOT MAMMOTH!

"WHEN HE GETS GOING, HE'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP!

OWENS

"AND THIS TIME IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON A KING-SIZE RAMPAGE!"

MAMMOTH ALONE COULD TAKE DOWN HALF THE CITY, AND FOR ALL I KNOW THE *FEARSOME FIVE* IS RIGHT BEHIND HIM.!

WITH OR WITHOUT MY POWERS--

--I HAVE TO *STOP* THAT JUGGERNAUT!

NOW YOU WAIT JUST ONE GOLDARN MINUTE.! THAT GORILLA ALMOST KILLED YOU WHEN YOU WERE *INVULNERABLE*.!

I UNDERSTAND THE DANGER. YET IF SUPERMAN DOESN'T STOP HIM--

--WHO WILL?

MAYBE WE CAN AT LEAST EVEN UP THE ODDS SOME.!

LET'S SEE... I THINK IT'S IN THIS DRAWER...

AHA! HERE'S THE TICKET!

THIS FORCE FIELD BELT I DEVELOPED A WHILE BACK HAS BATTERIES THAT WILL GIVE YOU ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES' PROTECTION!

ONCE THAT RUNS DRY THIS FABRIC WEIGHT BULLET-PROOF VEST MIGHT HELP A BIT!

I REPEAT... *MIGHT*.

THANKS. IF I CAN TAKE A COUPLE OF MAMMOTH'S PUNCHES, HE MAY NOT REALIZE I'M POWERLESS!

I HEARD IN PRISON THAT HE'S A PRETTY DIM BULB. OH, AND ALLOW ME TO SUGGEST--

"--A SIMPLE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT--

"--THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO STRIKE FROM THE AIR--

"--EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NO LONGER A SUPER-MAN.'"

THANKS, PROFESSOR. TIME TO GET MOVING--

--BEFORE MAMMOTH REALLY HURTS SOMEONE!

THERE'S THE BIG DOOFUS NOW!

STUPID COPS! MAMMOTH IS STRONGER THAN ANY OF YOU... AND YOUR GUNS!

LUCKY HE'S TAKING HIS RAGE OUT ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE RATHER THAN A HOSPITAL OR MALL!

THIS HIGH-WIRE ACT IS PLENTY NERVE-WRACKING EVEN *WITH* THIS FORCE FIELD!

WONDER HOW A GUY LIKE BATMAN MANAGES?

NO! THE CHIMNEY'S GIVING WAY! ROPE'S LOSING ITS TENSION!

CAN'T CONTROL MY SWI--OOOF!

WRAMM

HUH?

SOOPERMAN!

MAMMOTH OWES YOU!

OWES YOU BIG FOR THE LAST TIME YOU BEAT MAMMOTH UP!

I'M SURPRISED AN INTELLECTUAL GIANT LIKE YOU EVEN REMEMBERS--

--WHUFF!

MAMMOTH IS POWERFUL! UNBEATABLE!

UH-OH...HIS KICK MUST'VE LOOSENED SOMETHING IN THE BELT!

MY FORCE FIELD IS GONE!

METROPOLIS WATER DEPT.

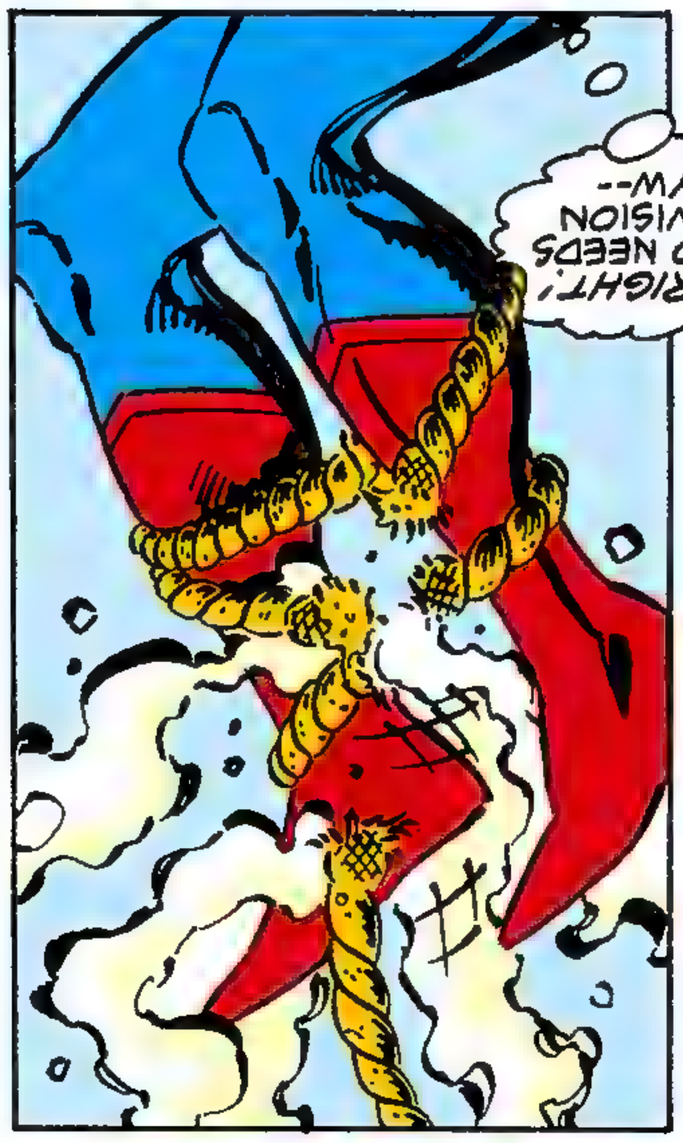
YOU AIN'T SO TOUGH LAST TIME YOU WUZ JUST LUCKY!

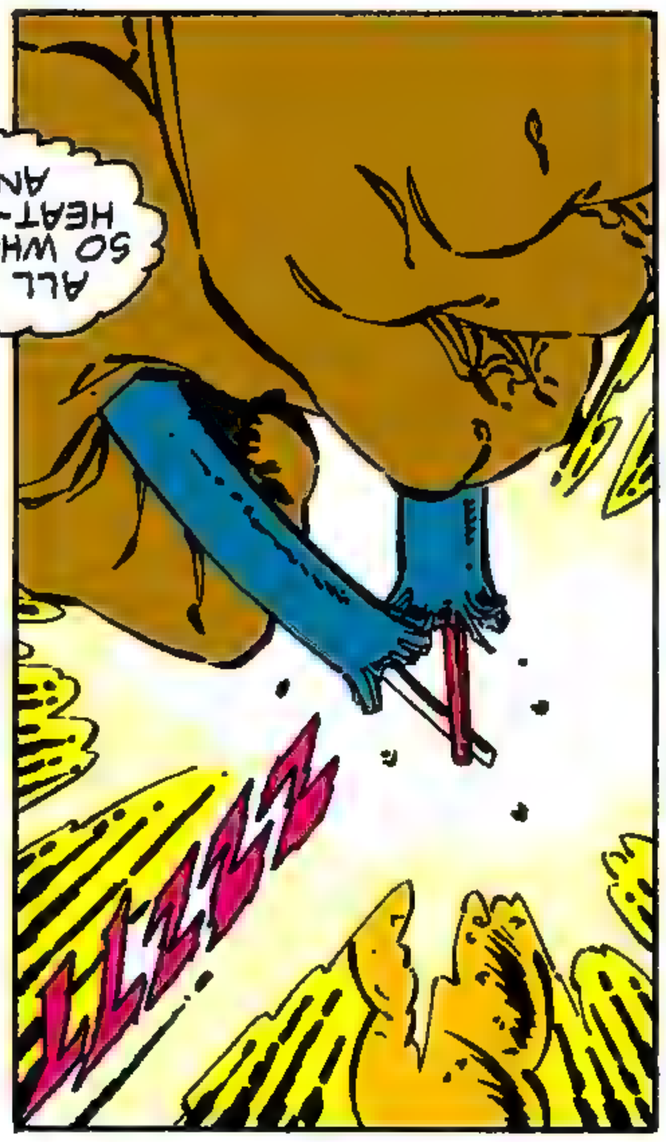
UH...GIVE IT UP OR I'LL HAVE TO GET TOUGH WITH YOU, MAMMOTH!

OH, MAN! CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID SOMETHING THAT RIDICULOUS!

IF I'M GOING TO BLUFF THIS GUY I HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!

GONNA HOIST YOU HIGH...SO THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SEE MAMMOTH WIN!




ZZZ

BASH

STAY ON YOUR TOES, KENT!

WHAT'S WRONG, MAMMOTH?

TOO SLOW AND STUPID TO BEAT ME?

MAMMOTH NOT STUPID! MAMMOTH TEAR YOU APART!

NO WAY! I'VE HAD TREE TRUNKS GIVE ME A BIGGER CHALLENGE!

HAVE TO GOAD HIM INTO BELIEVING HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!

ALL WEAPONS ARMED AND TARGETED, CAP'N SAWYER!

GIVE US THE WORD AND MAMMOTH IS HISTORY!

OKAY, SUPERMAN TOLD ME ONCE THAT HE COULD WITHSTAND ALL THE ARTILLERY WE HAVE HERE!

NOT LIKE HIM TO FALSELY BUILD HIMSELF UP...

...SO, LET 'ER RIP, BOYS! FIRE!!

BOOM!!!

POOOM

SPEEOW

ZRATT

NO, MAGGIE! WAIT!

WAIT!

EVENTUALLY, THE BARRAGE STOPS AND THE SMOKE SLOWLY CLEARS.

MAGGIE SAWYER'S SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT HAS PERFORMED ITS TASK WELL.

NOTHING STIRS.

NOTHING MOVES.

NOTHING. THAT IS, EXCEPT--

--MAMMOTH.

HURRRR...

...RRRAWWW! HAW HAWW!

BRING AN ASSAULT CHOPPER OVER HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

MAMMOTH'S UP AND SUPERMAN'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT!

CANCEL THE CHOPPER, MAGGIE.

I'M RIGHT HERE.

GOOD THING THE REPAIR CREW LEFT THE SEWER PIPE OPEN.

IF I HADN'T CRAWLED INSIDE FOR COVER I'D BE LONG GONE BY NOW!

GOOD!

MAMMOTH GLAD FOR CHANCE TO FINISH YOU OFF WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.

RAAAARGH!

DEEP, MAMMOTH. REAL DEEP.

YOU DON'T MIND IF I QUOTE YOU, DO YOU?

I'M TIRED OF THIS RIDICULOUS CONTEST OF YOURS.

MATTER OF FACT... I'M TIRED OF YOU.

RRR... MAMMOTH IS GONNA HURT YOU BAD!

REALLY BAD!

COME GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT, GENIUS.

BUT WHEN YOU'RE DONE BREAKING EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY AGAINST MINE--

--I'M GOING TO SHOVE EVERY CHUNK OF THIS RUBBLE RIGHT DOWN YOUR THROAT.

AND THERE ISN'T A HOSPITAL IN TOWN THAT'LL HAVE ENOUGH BANDAGES TO PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

RRRRR!

AND YOU KNOW IT.

GULP!

HUH... MAMMOTH CHANGE MIND! MAMMOTH SORRY!

MAMMOTH SMART.

WHEW! LIKE THEY SAY ON TV: "NEVER LET 'EM SEE YA SWEAT!"

URRRK

LISTEN UP, WHIZ KID. I WANT YOU TO BE A GOOD BOY AND SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE POLICE--

--OR I'LL HIT YOU SO BLASTED HARD YOU'LL WAKE UP IN WYOMING! GOT ME?

Y--YESSIR!

THANKS, SUPERMAN! DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU!

GEE, ALL MAMMOTH WANTED WAS A PRESENT!

ANY TIME, MAGGIE. MAMMOTH, BARRAGE--ONLY THE NAMES CHANGE.

THEY'LL BE TREATED THE SAME AT STRYKER'S ISLAND FOR SURE!

MAMMOTH WILL BE THERE UNTIL HIS ARRAIGNMENT?

ONLY FACILITY ON THE COAST THAT HANDLES THESE HEAVY-DUTY TYPES!

I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE FLYING OFF LIKE ALWAYS?

UH... NOT THIS TIME...

I... HAVE SOMEONE TO SEE DOWN THE STREET!

A LONG WALK LATER, AT 344 CLINTON AVENUE...

IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT AFTER SNEAKING DOWN EVERY ALLEY IN TOWN, I MADE IT HERE UNDETECTED.

IF NOTHING ELSE, THAT GLITCH IN THE BELT'S FORCE FIELD SERVED TO MAGNIFY MY PROBLEM.

I'M LUCKY MAMMOTH DIDN'T KILL ME TODAY. IF I'M GOING TO KEEP PLAYING SUPERMAN--

--I HAVE TO GET MY POWERS BACK!

AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF PEOPLE I CAN TURN TO...

...UNLESS THIS ONE CAN HELP, I MAY BE FINISHED FOR GOOD.

"INFORMATION? COULD YOU GIVE ME THE NUMBER FOR S.T.A.R. LABS IN PHOENIX?"

OOOP OOOP

HELLO?

AW, C'MON! YOU CAN'T BE HIM!

CAN YOU? OH... UH... YES, SIR. I'M SORRY...

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS GUY'S ON THE LEVEL OR NOT, STARMAN

--BUT HE CLAIMS TO BE SUPERMAN.

AND HE SAYS HE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

TO BE CONTINUED:

FIRST IN STARMAN #28 (ON SALE NOW) AND THEN IN ACTION COMICS #659 (ON SALE IN SEVEN DAYS)!

"IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN METROPOLIS?
"WELL, FOLKS, YOU'RE IN FOR A REAL TREAT! OUR TOWN HAS EVERYTHING...
"...MUSIC, FILM, THEATER, MUSEUMS... YOU NAME IT! IF METROPOLIS DOESN'T HAVE IT--"
--IT AIN'T BEEN INVENTED YET!
HERE WE ARE...56th AND BURNLEY! THAT'LL BE TEN-SIXTY, INCLUDIN' THE TOLLS.
IT'S ALL SO BIG...AND SO CLEAN!
REMARKABLE... SIMPLY REMARKABLE. I'D HEARD ABOUT--!
OMIGOD--LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
HEH-HEH. SPOTTED HIM, HAVE YA?
YEAH, HE'S THE BIGGEST PLUS TO LIFE IN METROPOLIS.
HE'S DONE MORE FOR THIS CITY THAN ANYBODY...LEX LUTHOR INCLUDED!
I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE, BUT I STILL GET A THRILL WHENEVER I SEE--HUH?!?
WHAT THE--?! THAT AIN'T SUPERMAN!
WHO IN BLAZES IS THAT GUY?!?

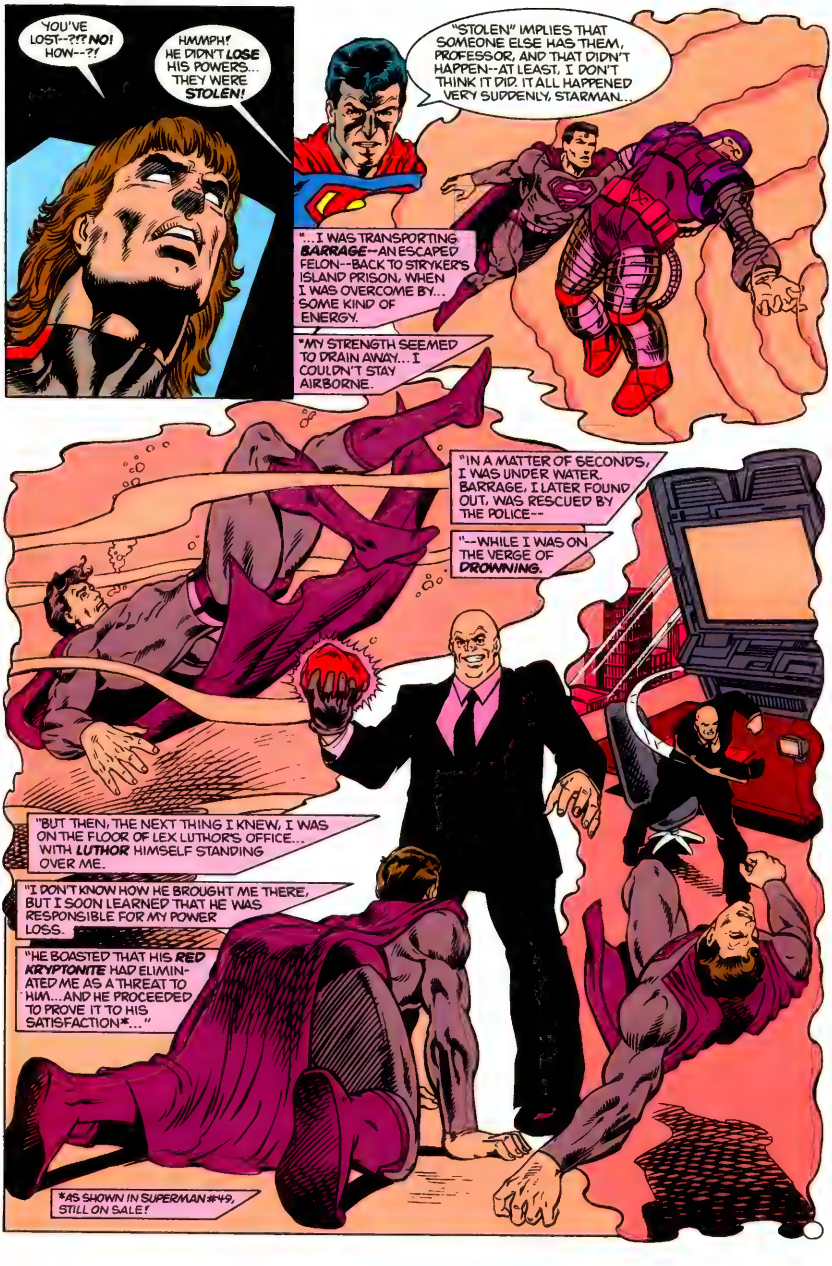
STARMAN 28 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103 POSTMASTER Send address changes to STARMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510 Annual subscription rate $12.00, Canada $17.00, all other foreign $24.00 U.S. funds only Copyright © 1990 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-8850
Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

STARMAN
CREATED BY ROGER STERN & TOM LYLE
SO THIS IS METROPOLIS!
THE PHOTOS I'VE SEEN DON'T BEGIN TO DO IT JUSTICE.
THESE ARE SOME SERIOUS SKYSCRAPERS... IT'S LIKE FLYING OVER MAN-MADE MOUNTAINS!
KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE
PART TWO/A
CONTINUED FROM SUPERMAN #91 AND ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #472
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE END OF A LEGEND?
ROGER STERN WRITER
DAVE HOOVER PENCILER
SCOTT HANNA INKER
BOB PINAHA LETTERER
TOM McCRAW COLORIST
KATIE MAIN~ EDITOR

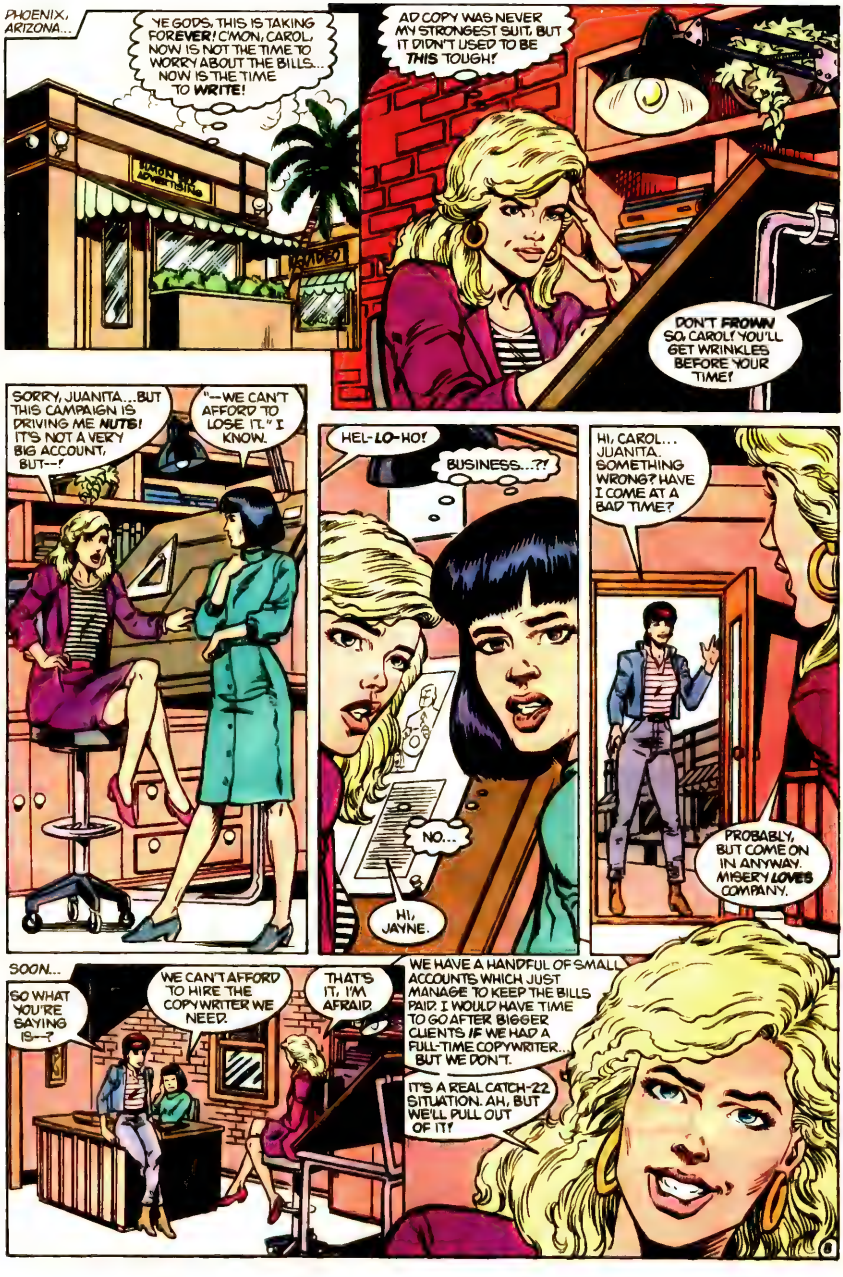
IT'D BE EASY TO GET LOST IN A CITY THIS BIG. I'D BETTER GET MY BEARINGS.
BOY, AM I GLAD I HAD DR. FAULKNER DESIGN SOME POCKETS INTO MY NEW SUIT.
LET'S SEE NOW... ACCORDING TO SUPERMAN'S DIRECTIONS, I SHOULD HEAD ALONG THE SOUTHSIDE. YEAH, ABOUT THIRTY BLOCKS DOWNTOWN...
...WELL, THIS IS THE ADDRESS. BUT SURELY THIS ISN'T WHERE SUPERMAN LIVES!
SHOULD I JUST DROP IN? WHAT THE HECK, THE STREET LOOKS DESERTED--
...THE SKYLIGHT'S OPEN, AND I AM EXPECTED, AFTER ALL!
WELL, WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S A CINCH NO ONE LIVES HERE!
ALL THIS GEAR... THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE NASA'S ATTIC! I HOPE I GOT THE RIGHT ADDRESS.
HELLO! IS ANYBODY HERE?
I AM! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
?!?!?! WHY... I'M STARMAN. SUPERMAN ASKED ME TO MEET HIM HERE.

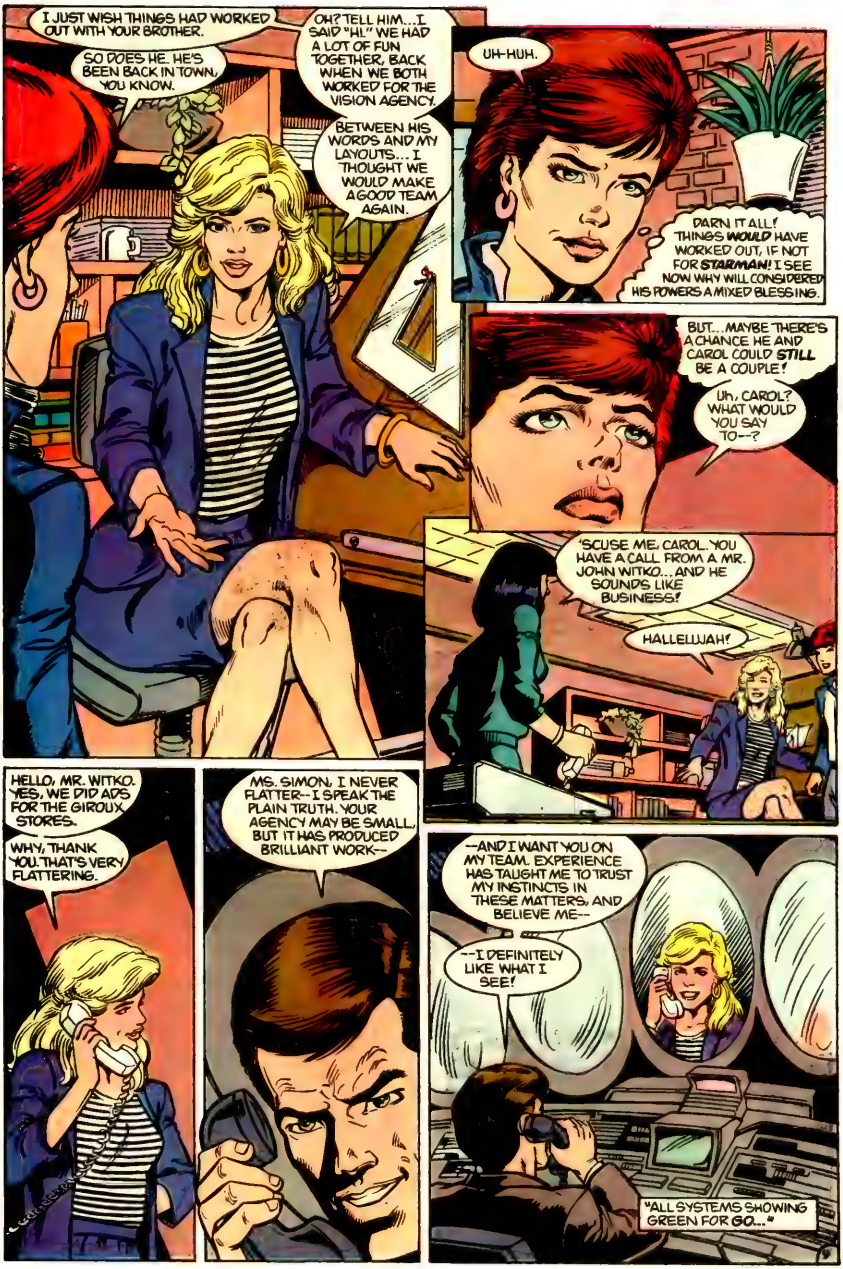
STARMAN! MY WORD, YES! FORGIVE ME, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT FIRST. WELCOME TO METROPOLIS!
I'M PROFESSOR EMIL HAMILTON. ANY FRIEND OF SUPERMAN'S IS A FRIEND OF MINE. HE SHOULD BE JOINING US SHORTLY.
HOW DO YOU DO, PROFESSOR?
QUITE WELL, THANK YOU! OH, I HAD A SPOT OF TROUBLE A YEAR OR SO AGO...SOME BUSINESS TROUBLE, BIT OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN... IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SUPERMAN--!
Ah, BUT YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO HEAR MY LIFE STORY! WHERE IS IT YOU'RE FROM...ARKANSAS?
ARIZONA.
OF COURSE. COFFEE?
YES, THANK YOU--
--I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO GIVE SUPERMAN A HAND--
--BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY HE ASKED ME TO COME. HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET INTO SPECIFICS OVER THE PHONE.
YES, WELL... YOU SEE, STARMAN...
DING
...PERHAPS I SHOULD LET HIM TELL YOU HIMSELF!

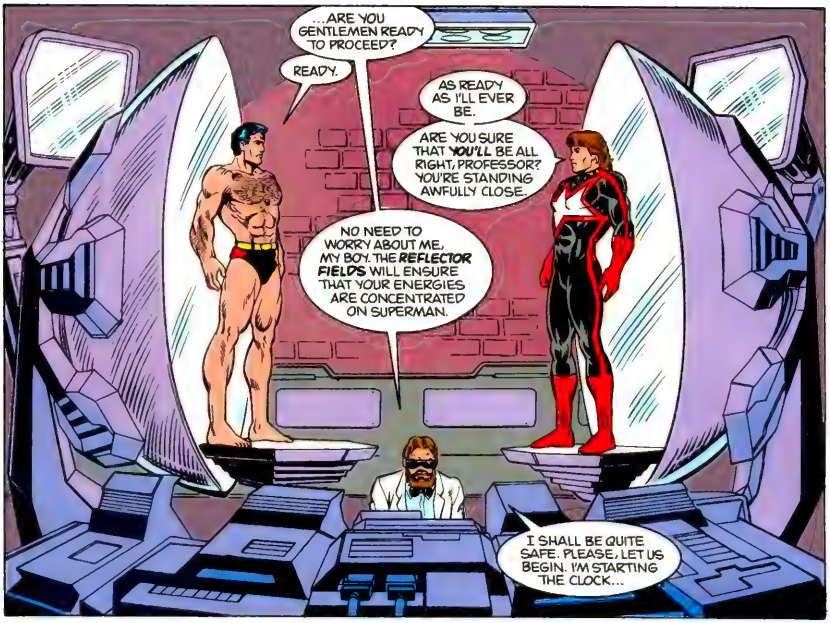
HELLO, STARMAN. I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME SO SOON...
...GLADDER THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE.
AND I'M GLAD THAT I HAPPENED TO BE AT S.T.A.R.'s PHOENIX LAB WHEN YOU CALLED.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
:AAHKK!: LET'S... START... WITH RELAXING... THAT GRIP!
WH-WHAT? YOU'RE KIDDING!
IT'S...OKAY. I DON'T THINK ANYTHING'S BROKEN.
YOU SEE, THIS IS WHY I CALLED YOU HERE...
YOU'RE NOT KIDDING! I REALLY HURT YOU? YOU?!
...I'M NO STRONGER THAN A NORMAL MAN, NOW.
I'VE LOST MY POWERS.


YOU'VE LOST--?!? NO! HOW--?!
HMMPH! HE DIDN'T LOSE HIS POWERS... THEY WERE STOLEN!
"STOLEN" IMPLIES THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS THEM, PROFESSOR, AND THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN--AT LEAST, I DON'T THINK IT DID. IT ALL HAPPENED VERY SUDDENLY, STARMAN...
"...I WAS TRANSPORTING BARRAGE--AN ESCAPED FELON--BACK TO STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON, WHEN I WAS OVERCOME BY... SOME KIND OF ENERGY.
"MY STRENGTH SEEMED TO DRAIN AWAY... I COULDN'T STAY AIRBORNE.
"IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, I WAS UNDER WATER. BARRAGE, I LATER FOUND OUT, WAS RESCUED BY THE POLICE--
"--WHILE I WAS ON THE VERGE OF DROWNING.
"BUT THEN, THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS ON THE FLOOR OF LEX LUTHOR'S OFFICE... WITH LUTHOR HIMSELF STANDING OVER ME.
"I DON'T KNOW HOW HE BROUGHT ME THERE, BUT I SOON LEARNED THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY POWER LOSS.
"HE BOASTED THAT HIS RED KRYPTONITE HAD ELIMINATED ME AS A THREAT TO HIM...AND HE PROCEEDED TO PROVE IT TO HIS SATISFACTION*..."
*AS SHOWN IN SUPERMAN #49, STILL ON SALE!

...AFTER HE'D HAD HIS FUN, I WAS THROWN OUT OF HIS BUILDING--AT GROUND LEVEL, FORTUNATELY.
LEX LUTHOR DID ALL THAT? THE LEX LUTHOR?
THE SAME LEX LUTHOR WHO DOLES OUT THE LEXCORP SCHOLARSHIPS? THE BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST?!
BILLIONAIRE ROBBER BARON IS MORE LIKE IT!
LUTHOR TRIED TO STEAL MY LIFE'S WORK... AND GOT AWAY WITH MOST OF IT! HE'S A USER, SON! HE'D SELL TICKETS TO HIS OWN GRANDMOTHER'S FUNERAL!
THE PROFESSOR'S RIGHT. LUTHOR IS ONE OF THE MOST RUTHLESS MEN ALIVE. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW...ANY LAW...BUT WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE HARD EVIDENCE OF HIS CRIMES.
HE'S BEEN OUT TO GET ME FOR YEARS--AND HE MAY FINALLY HAVE SUCCEEDED! LUTHOR'S TRIED BEFORE TO SYNTHESIZE KRYPTONITE...
...PERHAPS ONE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS PRODUCED THAT RED ORE. WHATEVER ITS ORIGINS, IT WAS LIKE NO ELEMENT I'D ENCOUNTERED BEFORE. TRUE KRYPTONITE CAN KILL ME--
--WHAT LUTHOR USED APPARENTLY STOPPED AT CANCELLING OUT MY BODY'S ACCUMULATED SOLAR ENERGY--
--LEAVING YOU AN ORDINARY MAN.
EXACTLY. THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU HERE, STARMAN.
WHEN THE PARASITE LEECHED AWAY HALF MY POWER, THE "SUN BATH" YOU PROVIDED GOT MY STRENGTH BACK TO NORMAL IN A MATTER OF HOURS!*
*IN STARMAN #14 AND ACTION COMICS #645.
I'D LIKE TO TRY THAT AGAIN... IF YOU'RE WILLING. I WARN YOU, I'LL NEED CONSIDERABLY MORE ENERGY THAN LAST TIME.
YOU HAVE TO ASK?


PHOENIX, ARIZONA...
YE GODS, THIS IS TAKING FOREVER! C'MON, CAROL, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THE BILLS... NOW IS THE TIME TO WRITE!
AD COPY WAS NEVER MY STRONGEST SUIT, BUT IT DIDN'T USED TO BE THIS TOUGH!
DON'T FROWN SO, CAROL! YOU'LL GET WRINKLES BEFORE YOUR TIME!
SORRY, JUANITA...BUT THIS CAMPAIGN IS DRIVING ME NUTS! IT'S NOT A VERY BIG ACCOUNT, BUT--?
"--WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE IT." I KNOW.
HEL-LO-HO!
BUSINESS...?!
NO...
HI, JAYNE.
HI, CAROL... JUANITA. SOMETHING WRONG? HAVE I COME AT A BAD TIME?
PROBABLY, BUT COME ON IN ANYWAY. MISERY LOVES COMPANY.
SOON...
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS--?
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HIRE THE COPYWRITER WE NEED.
THAT'S IT, I'M AFRAID.
WE HAVE A HANDFUL OF SMALL ACCOUNTS WHICH JUST MANAGE TO KEEP THE BILLS PAID. I WOULD HAVE TIME TO GO AFTER BIGGER CLIENTS IF WE HAD A FULL-TIME COPYWRITER... BUT WE DON'T.
IT'S A REAL CATCH-22 SITUATION. AH, BUT WE'LL PULL OUT OF IT!


I JUST WISH THINGS HAD WORKED OUT WITH YOUR BROTHER.
SO DOES HE. HE'S BEEN BACK IN TOWN, YOU KNOW.
OH? TELL HIM...I SAID "HI." WE HAD A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER, BACK WHEN WE BOTH WORKED FOR THE VISION AGENCY.
BETWEEN HIS WORDS AND MY LAYOUTS... I THOUGHT WE WOULD MAKE A GOOD TEAM AGAIN.
UH-HUH.
DARN IT ALL! THINGS WOULD HAVE WORKED OUT, IF NOT FOR STARMAN! I SEE NOW WHY WILL CONSIDERED HIS POWERS A MIXED BLESSING.
BUT...MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE HE AND CAROL COULD STILL BE A COUPLE!
UH, CAROL? WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO--?
'SCUSE ME, CAROL. YOU HAVE A CALL FROM A MR. JOHN WITKO...AND HE SOUNDS LIKE BUSINESS!
HALLELUJAH!
HELLO, MR. WITKO. YES, WE DID ADS FOR THE GIROUX STORES.
WHY, THANK YOU. THAT'S VERY FLATTERING.
MS. SIMON, I NEVER FLATTER--I SPEAK THE PLAIN TRUTH. YOUR AGENCY MAY BE SMALL, BUT IT HAS PRODUCED BRILLIANT WORK--
--AND I WANT YOU ON MY TEAM. EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS IN THESE MATTERS, AND BELIEVE ME--
--I DEFINITELY LIKE WHAT I SEE!
"ALL SYSTEMS SHOWING GREEN FOR GO..."

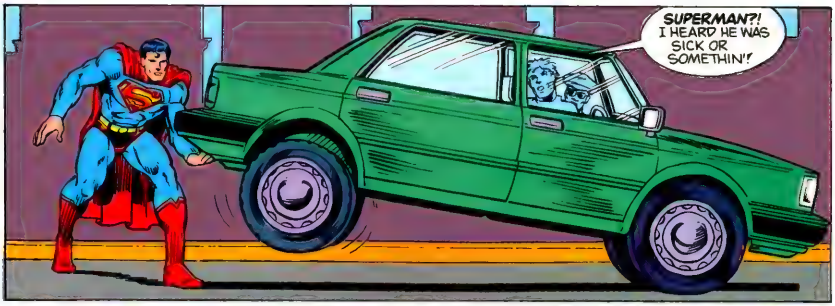

...ARE YOU GENTLEMEN READY TO PROCEED?
READY.
AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE.
ARE YOU SURE THAT *YOU'LL* BE ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR? YOU'RE STANDING AWFULLY CLOSE.
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME, MY BOY. THE ***REFLECTOR FIELDS*** WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR ENERGIES ARE CONCENTRATED ON SUPERMAN.
I SHALL BE QUITE SAFE. PLEASE, LET US BEGIN. I'M STARTING THE CLOCK...

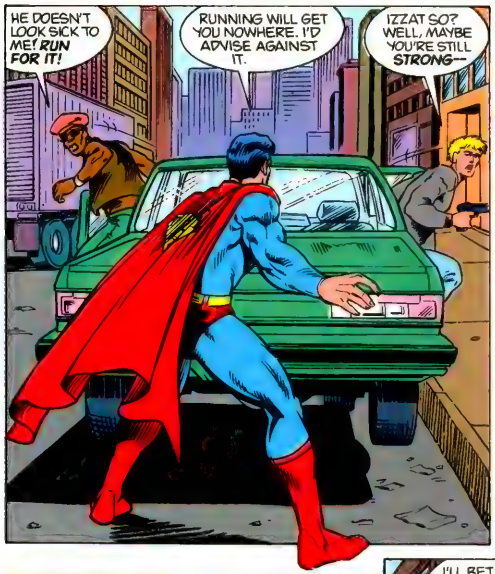
14:27
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN AT THIS?
LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, SUPERMAN? FEELING ANYTHING YET?
NOTHING. JUST THE EXPECTED WARMTH... AND ***BOREDOM!*** IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
NO, THIS ISN'T EVEN HALF-POWER FOR ME, BUT AT THIS STAGE--!
THIS STAGE IS GETTING US ***NOWHERE!*** GIVE ME ***MORE!***
BUT--!
I CAN TAKE IT! GIVE ME MORE-- ***NOW!***

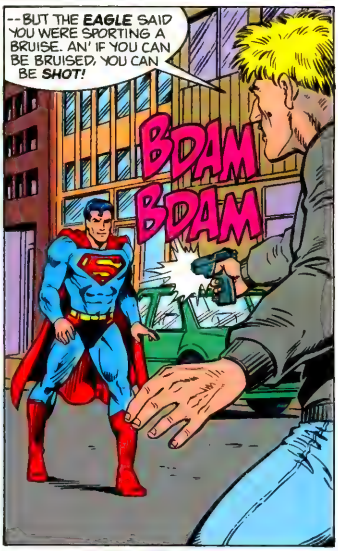
15:00...16:00...17:00...18:00...
OKAY, YOU'RE THE BOSS!
HAVEN'T...FELT THIS HOT...SINCE THAT FEVER... WHEN I WAS A BOY... BEFORE MY POWERS DEVELOPED.
BUT...I HAVE TO TAKE IT! CAN'T WAIT... YEARS...FOR MY POWERS...TO BUILD BACK UP.
HAVE... TO...TAKE... IT...
STOP! STARMAN, STOP!

IT'S A WONDER YOU WEREN'T SEVERELY BURNED! THINGS AREN'T SO DESPERATE THAT YOU HAVE TO RISK DEATH TO REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH!
THE PROFESSOR IS RIGHT--YOU HAVE TO BE ALIVE TO USE YOUR POWERS!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
A LITTLE...LIGHTHEADED... BUT THAT'S PASSING. ASIDE FROM THAT, I'M NO STRONGER... AND I'M CERTAINLY NO LESS VULNERABLE!
I APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP, STARMAN, BUT I'M AFRAID OUR PLAN DIDN'T WORK. IT LOOKS AS IF SUPERMAN'S CAREER IS OVER...AND LUTHOR'S WON.
HEY, DON'T GIVE UP YET! MAYBE THIS RED-KRYPTONITE EFFECT WILL EVENTUALLY WEAR OFF! OR MAYBE WE CAN COME UP WITH SOME OTHER WAY TO GET YOU BACK IN THE AIR!
I QUITE AGREE, STARMAN! IN FACT, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON AN INTERIM SOLUTION...
...A SORT OF BODY SUIT BASED ON THE LEXCORP ARMOR OUR FRIEND GANGBUSTER BRIEFLY POSSESSED.*
*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #451-456.
IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT LUTHOR'S TECHNOLOGY BE USED AGAINST HIM. SEE? SEVERAL LAYERS OF REINFORCED KEVLAR...AND PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THE MICRO-MOTORS NEEDED TO BOOST YOUR STRENGTH.
HMMM...IF WE GOT IT UP AND RUNNING, I COULD WALK BACK INTO LUTHOR'S OFFICE AND--!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? EVEN WITH A PADDED COSTUME OVER IT, DO YOU THINK YOU'D FOOL ANYBODY? ESPECIALLY LUTHOR?
AND HOW SAFE WOULD IT BE? FOR PETE'S SAKE, YOUR HEAD WOULD BE EXPOSED!
THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT RISKS INVOLVED...BUT IT'S EVEN RISKIER TO LET LUTHOR'S POWER GO UNCHECKED.
BESIDES, WHAT ALTERNATIVES DO I HAVE?

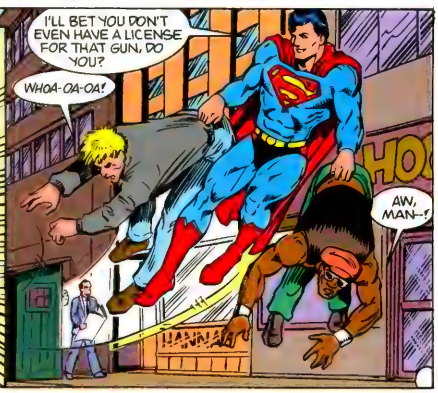
"CAN YOU IMAGINE THE REACTION ON THE STREETS, IF WORD GOT OUT...?"
DID YOU SEE THIS?!
Metro Eagle
SUPERMAN INJURED?
35¢
STORY ON PAGE TWO
'COURSE I SAW IT! YA THINK I JUST SELL 'EM?
ACCORDING TO THIS, EYEWITNESSES SAW SUPERMAN STAGGER OUT OF THE LEXCORP BUILDING WITH HIS FACE BRUISED!
"LEXCORP SECURITY PERSONNEL REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT, BUT HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES SUGGEST THAT THE MAN OF STEEL MAY BE LOSING HIS POWERS."
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?
I DUNNO, BUT THE EDITOR OF THE EAGLE MUST!
BANK
THEN WHY'S THERE NOTHING ABOUT THIS IN THE PLANET? OR THE STAR? AND WHAT ABOUT THAT RUN-IN WITH THAT MAMMOTH GUY.
DINGA-DINGA-DINGA
"...THIS CITY COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!"
C'MON, MAN, GET US OUTTA HERE!
I GOT MY FOOT TO THE FLOOR, BUT--!
OH, NO.


SUPERMAN?! I HEARD HE WAS SICK OR SOMETHIN'!


HE DOESN'T LOOK SICK TO ME! RUN FOR IT!
RUNNING WILL GET YOU NOWHERE. I'D ADVISE AGAINST IT.
IZZAT SO? WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE STILL STRONG--

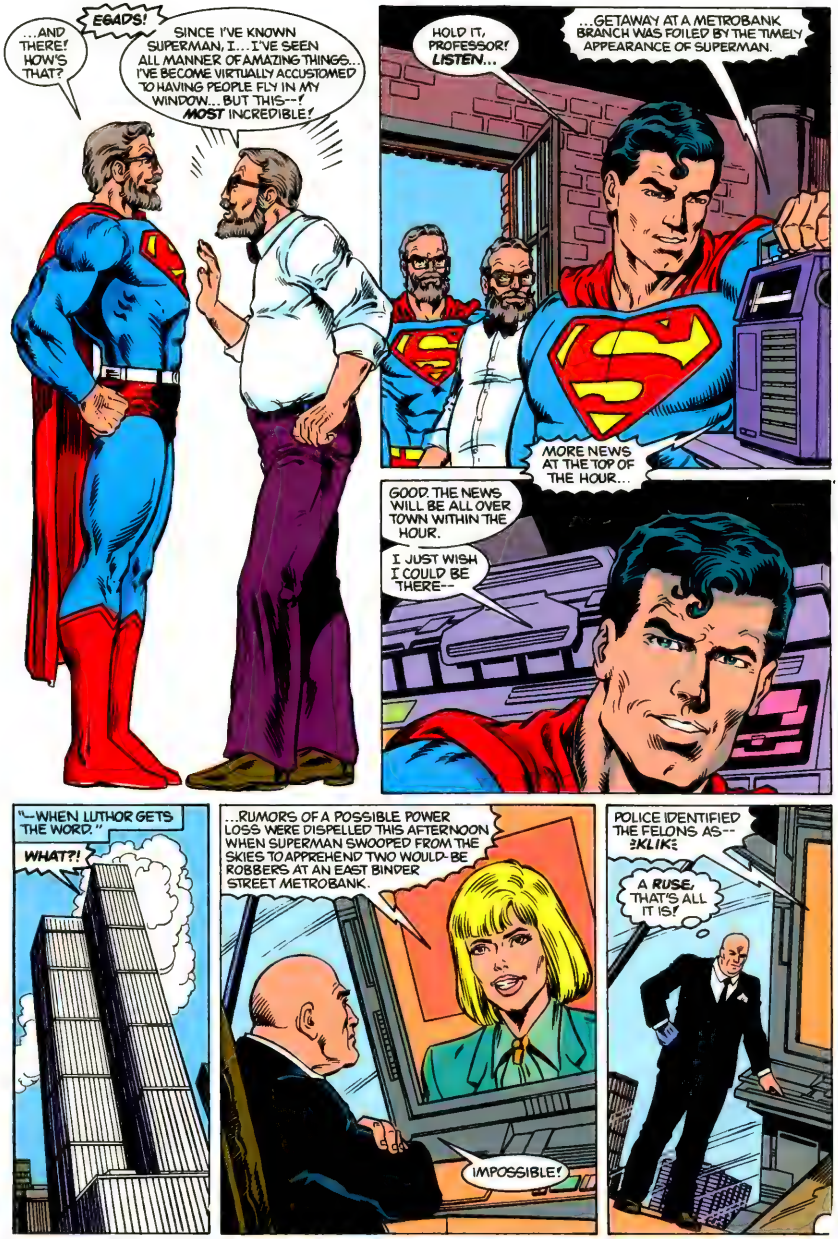

--BUT THE EAGLE SAID YOU WERE SPORTING A BRUISE. AN' IF YOU CAN BE BRUISED, YOU CAN BE SHOT!
BDAM
BDAM

LET'S BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, SHALL WE? A RICOCHETING BULLET COULD HURT SOMEONE...
...MAYBE EVEN YOU!


I'LL BET YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A LICENSE FOR THAT GUN, DO YOU?
WHOA-OA-OA!
AW, MAN--!

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, OFFICERS!
THANKS, SUPERMAN!
WHUMP
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?
I THINK THE EDITOR OF THE EAGLE OUGHTTA HIRE BETTER REPORTERS.
STILL, THERE WAS SOMETHING... I DUNNO... STRANGE ABOUT SUPERMAN. NOW, I'VE ONLY SEEN HIM ONCE OR TWICE BEFORE...
...AND THEN ALWAYS FROM A DISTANCE, BUT THIS TIME I COULDA SWORN THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM...
"...SOMETHING ABOUT HIS EYES!"
THAT SEEMED TO WORK OUT WELL.
LET'S GO CHECK ON THE OFFICIAL REACTION AT THE PROFESSOR'S...

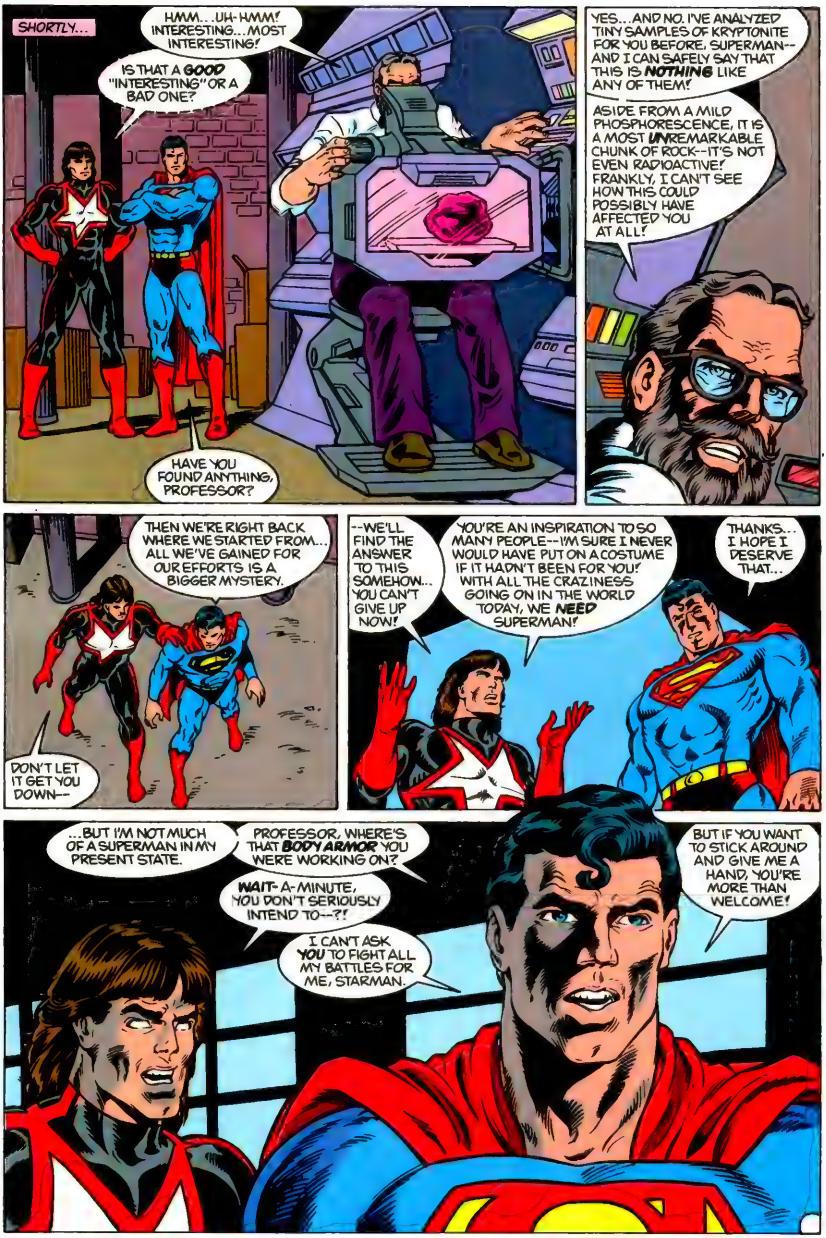
GUESS WHAT? I STOPPED A COUPLE OF BANK ROBBERS!
NOT BAD FOR A STAND-IN, HUH?
EXEMPLARY, MY BOY!
YES... GOOD WORK.
THE MAN-ON-THE-STREET ACCEPTED MY IMPERSONATION WITH NO QUESTIONS...BUT I'M NOT SURE EVERYONE WILL BE SO EASY TO CONVINCE. HOW AM I DOING ON THE VOICE?
VERY GOOD...ALMOST FRIGHTENINGLY SO.
YES, BUT BE CAREFUL--YOUR EYES HAVE REVERTED!
UH-OH. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I HOPE NO ONE NOTICED.
THERE...BLUE ENOUGH?
QUITE!
GOOD! WELL, I DON'T SUPPOSE--
--I NEED TO KEEP THIS FACE ON--
--WHILE IT'S JUST THE THREE OF US.
I STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW EASILY YOU CHANGE YOUR FEATURES. IT'S REALLY QUITE REMARKABLE. HOW EVER DO YOU DO IT?
IT'S EASIER TO DO THAN TO EXPLAIN, SIR.
I CAN CONTROL MY SKIN COLOR AND PLASTICITY--AND THINGS LIKE HAIR GROWTH AND HAIR COLOR, WHICH I SOMETIMES CHANGE--JUST BY THINKING ABOUT THEM. AND I'VE "MEMORIZED" A COUPLE OF FACES WHICH I CAN ASSUME AT WILL.
NEW FACES REQUIRE A LITTLE WORK. COULD I TROUBLE YOU FOR A SPARE PAIR OF GLASSES, IF YOU HAVE THEM...AND A MIRROR?


...AND THERE! HOW'S THAT?
EGADS!
SINCE I'VE KNOWN SUPERMAN, I... I'VE SEEN ALL MANNER OF AMAZING THINGS.. I'VE BECOME VIRTUALLY ACCUSTOMED TO HAVING PEOPLE FLY IN MY WINDOW... BUT THIS--' MOST INCREDIBLE!
HOLD IT, PROFESSOR! LISTEN...
...GETAWAY AT A METROBANK BRANCH WAS FOILED BY THE TIMELY APPEARANCE OF SUPERMAN.
MORE NEWS AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR...
GOOD. THE NEWS WILL BE ALL OVER TOWN WITHIN THE HOUR.
I JUST WISH I COULD BE THERE--
"--WHEN LUTHOR GETS THE WORD."
WHAT?!
...RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE POWER LOSS WERE DISPELLED THIS AFTERNOON WHEN SUPERMAN SWOOPED FROM THE SKIES TO APPREHEND TWO WOULD-BE ROBBERS AT AN EAST BINDER STREET METROBANK.
IMPOSSIBLE!
POLICE IDENTIFIED THE FELONS AS-- ?KLIK?
A RUSE. THAT'S ALL IT IS!

SUPERMAN HAS FRIENDS ON THE POLICE FORCE...THEY NO DOUBT CONSPIRED WITH HIM TO CONCOCT THIS PHONY ROBBERY STORY TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC. NO MATTER...
...WHEN THEIR DECEPTION IS FOUND OUT, THE PUBLIC OUTRAGE WILL ONLY SERVE TO BRING THE CITY EVEN MORE TIGHTLY UNDER MY CONTROL!
TAP TAP
EH?
TAP TAP TAP
NO!!!
HE'S PANICKING, JUST AS SUPERMAN PREDICTED!
NOW TO GAIN ENTRANCE BEFORE LUTHOR NOTICES THAT THE HEAT IS RADIATING MAINLY FROM MY HANDS AND NOT MY EYES!
THE KRYPTONITE MUST HAVE FAILED... BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE!
IT STOLE HIS POWERS AWAY...JUST AS MXYZPTLK SAID IT WOULD! NO FORCE ON EARTH COULD RESTORE THEM!

PARDON ME, DO YOU MIND IF I COME IN?
NO...NO, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING--WE'RE NINETY-FIVE STORIES UP! YOU CAN'T FLY ANYMORE...
...YOU HAVE NO POWERS AT ALL!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, LUTHOR. I HAVE ALL THE POWER I NEED TO DEAL WITH YOU!
I KNOW! MY RED KRYPTONITE TOOK THEM ALL AWAY!
@#%¢#! THE EFFECT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PERMANENT-- PERMANENT!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER, LUTHOR...
...KRYPTONITE IS GREEN, NOT RED!
YOU...YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS INTRUSION!
INTRUSION?

YOU'RE GETTING PARANOID, SIR.
I CAME HERE MERELY TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS DANGEROUS MINERAL. JUDGING BY THE GLOW, IT MUST BE RADIOACTIVE.
I'LL JUST MOVE IT SOME PLACE WHERE IT WON'T HARM ANYONE.
OH, SORRY ABOUT YOUR WINDOW!
BY THE WAY...IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING SO...YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR!
?!
NO...NO... I KNOW IT WORKED...
...I SAW IT WORK...I BEAT HIM BARE HANDED! HE WAS POWERLESS...
...WHAT WENT WRONG?!


SHORTLY...
HMM... UH-HMM! INTERESTING... MOST INTERESTING!
IS THAT A GOOD "INTERESTING" OR A BAD ONE?
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING, PROFESSOR?
YES... AND NO. I'VE ANALYZED TINY SAMPLES OF KRYPTONITE FOR YOU BEFORE, SUPERMAN--AND I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT THIS IS NOTHING LIKE ANY OF THEM!
ASIDE FROM A MILD PHOSPHORESCENCE, IT IS A MOST UNREMARKABLE CHUNK OF ROCK--IT'S NOT EVEN RADIOACTIVE! FRANKLY, I CAN'T SEE HOW THIS COULD POSSIBLY HAVE AFFECTED YOU AT ALL!
THEN WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM... ALL WE'VE GAINED FOR OUR EFFORTS IS A BIGGER MYSTERY.
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN--
--WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS SOMEHOW... YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!
YOU'RE AN INSPIRATION TO SO MANY PEOPLE--I'M SURE I NEVER WOULD HAVE PUT ON A COSTUME IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU! WITH ALL THE CRAZINESS GOING ON IN THE WORLD TODAY, WE NEED SUPERMAN!
THANKS... I HOPE I DESERVE THAT...
...BUT I'M NOT MUCH OF A SUPERMAN IN MY PRESENT STATE.
PROFESSOR, WHERE'S THAT BODY ARMOR YOU WERE WORKING ON?
WAIT- A-MINUTE, YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY INTEND TO--?!
I CAN'T ASK YOU TO FIGHT ALL MY BATTLES FOR ME, STARMAN.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND AND GIVE ME A HAND, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME!

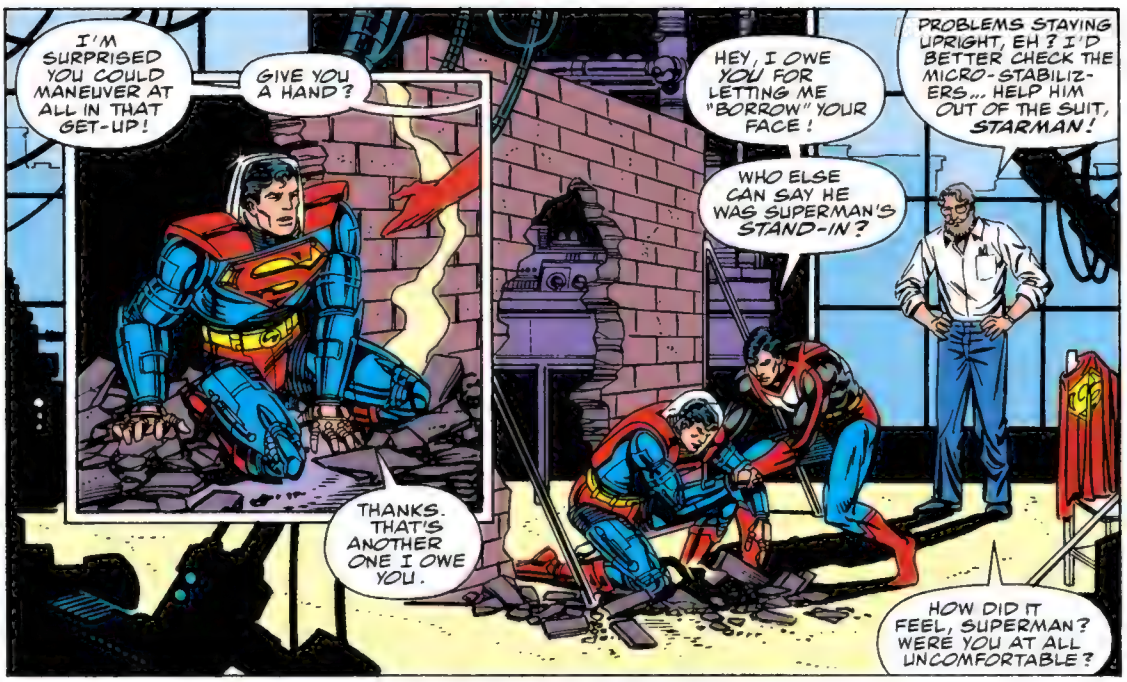
AND SO...
HELLO, MUGGS... HELLO, BOY!
LET ME ANSWER THE PHONE, AND THEN WE'LL GO FOR A WALK, OKAY?
RRRING
PAYTON RESIDENCE.
WILL! WHERE ARE YOU? DID YOU SEE SUPERMAN?
YES...YES, I DID. NO, I'M STILL IN METROPOLIS. YES, THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE I GET YOU HIS AUTOGRAPH.
Uh, LOOK, SIS...SOMETHING'S COME UP. I WON'T BE HOME FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF DAYS. SORRY, I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT NOW. JUST...WISH ME LUCK.
WISH US, ALL LUCK.
MEANWHILE, IN THE MIDDLE OF METROPOLIS/ WEST RIVER, IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY INTERNMENT CENTER ON STRYKER'S ISLAND...
I TELL YA, I DON'T LIKE IT, THAD...
...RUMORS'VE BEEN FLYIN' 'ROUND THE EXERCISE YARD FASTER'N LINE-DRIVES IN SPRING TRAININ'.
RUMORS ABOUT WHAT, BOBBY?
ABOUT A BREAK! CAN YA B'LIEVE IT?
I CAN INDEED. I'VE BEEN PLANNING IT FOR SOME TIME.
MATCH?
YOU--?
ME, BOBBY. BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY "BREAK"--
--BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, THIS ISLAND WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THADDEUS KILLGRAVE...AND SUPERMAN WILL BE VERY, VERY DEAD!
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN ACTION COMICS # 650!

SPECIAL THANKS TO JERRY ORDWAY, KERRY GAMMILL, BOB McLEOD, AND MICHAEL CARLIN FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS STORY POSSIBLE!

BREAKOUT!
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
NO... NO, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING--
--WE'RE 95 STORIES UP! YOU CAN'T FLY ANY MORE... YOU HAVE NO POWERS AT ALL...
...I KNOW! MY RED KRYPTONITE TOOK THEM ALL AWAY!*
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, LUTHOR. I HAVE ALL THE POWER I NEED TO DEAL WITH YOU!
ROGER STERN - WRITER
BOB BRETT - ARTISTS
McLEOD & BREEDING
BILL OAKLEY / GLENN WHITMORE
letterer colorist
JON PETERSON / MIKE CARLIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

☆#@!!! THE EFFECT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PERMANENT!
PERMANENT!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER, LUTHOR...
...KRYPTONITE IS GREEN, NOT RED!
YOU... YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS INTRUSION!
INTRUSION? YOU'RE GETTING PARANOID, SIR--
--I CAME HERE MERELY TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS DANGEROUS MINERAL. JUDGING BY THE GLOW, IT MUST BE RADIOACTIVE...
"...OH, SORRY ABOUT YOUR WINDOW!"
I KNOW IT WORKED... I SAW IT WORK...
...I BEAT HIM BAREHANDED!
HE WAS POWERLESS...

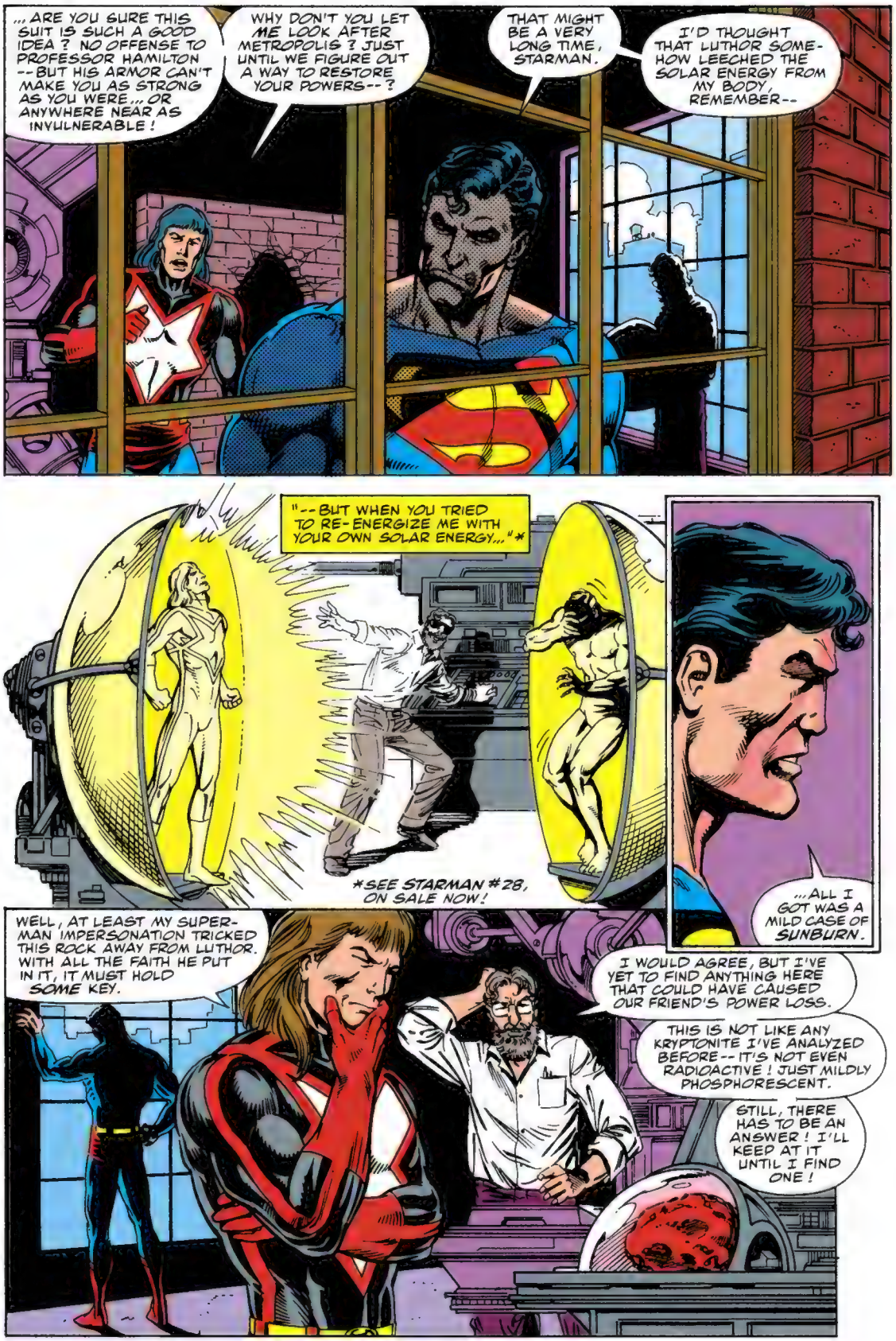
"... WHAT WENT WRONG?!?"
COMING THROUGH!
KER-
-ROOM
HMMM... THAT WASN'T HALF-BAD!
I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
WHOOP!
WUK
IF I CAN LEARN TO MAINTAIN MY BALANCE.

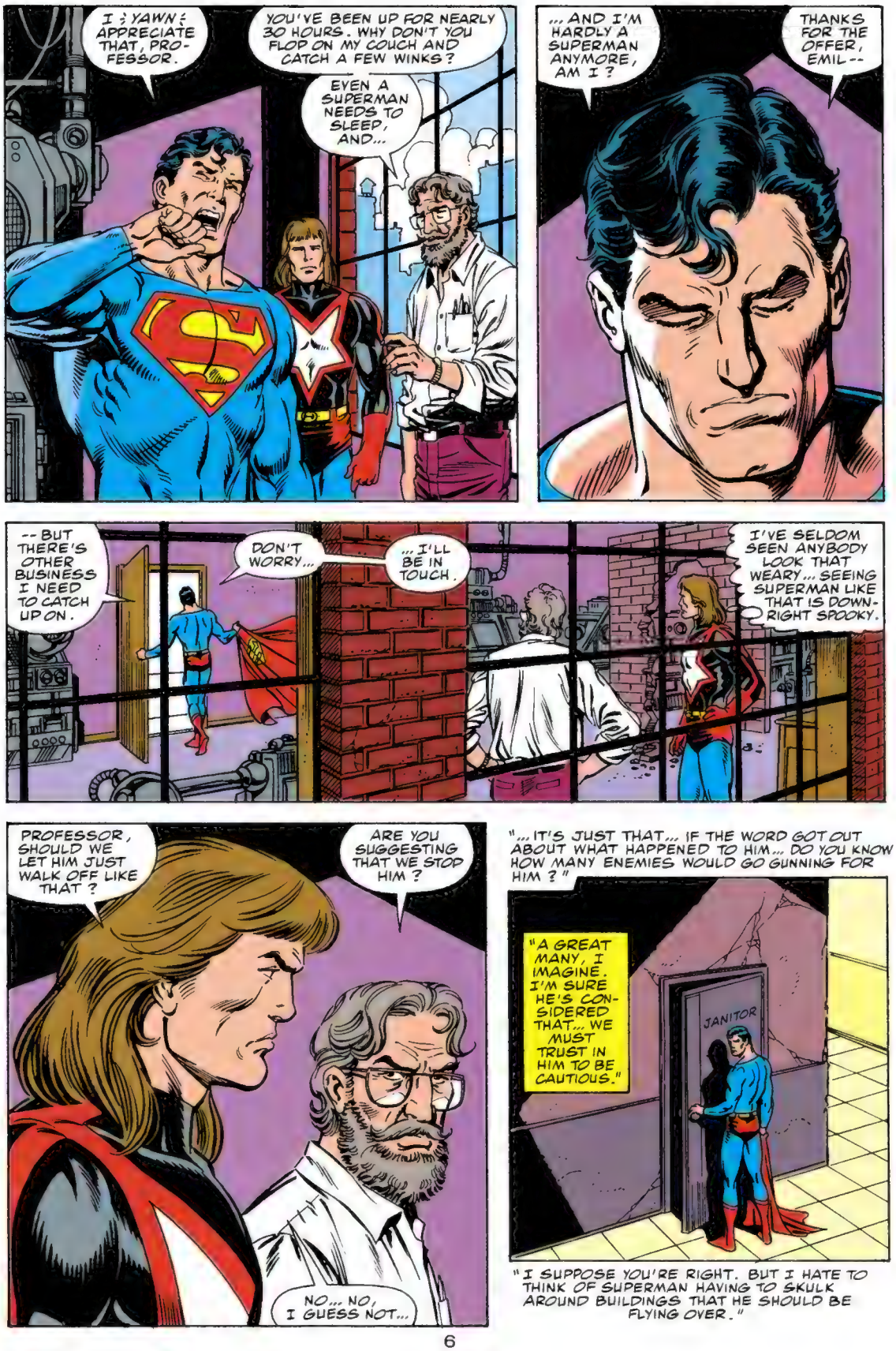

I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD MANEUVER AT ALL IN THAT GET-UP!
GIVE YOU A HAND?
THANKS. THAT'S ANOTHER ONE I OWE YOU.
HEY, I OWE YOU FOR LETTING ME "BORROW" YOUR FACE!
WHO ELSE CAN SAY HE WAS SUPERMAN'S STAND-IN?
PROBLEMS STAYING UPRIGHT, EH? I'D BETTER CHECK THE MICRO-STABILIZERS... HELP HIM OUT OF THE SUIT, STARMAN!
HOW DID IT FEEL, SUPERMAN? WERE YOU AT ALL UNCOMFORTABLE?

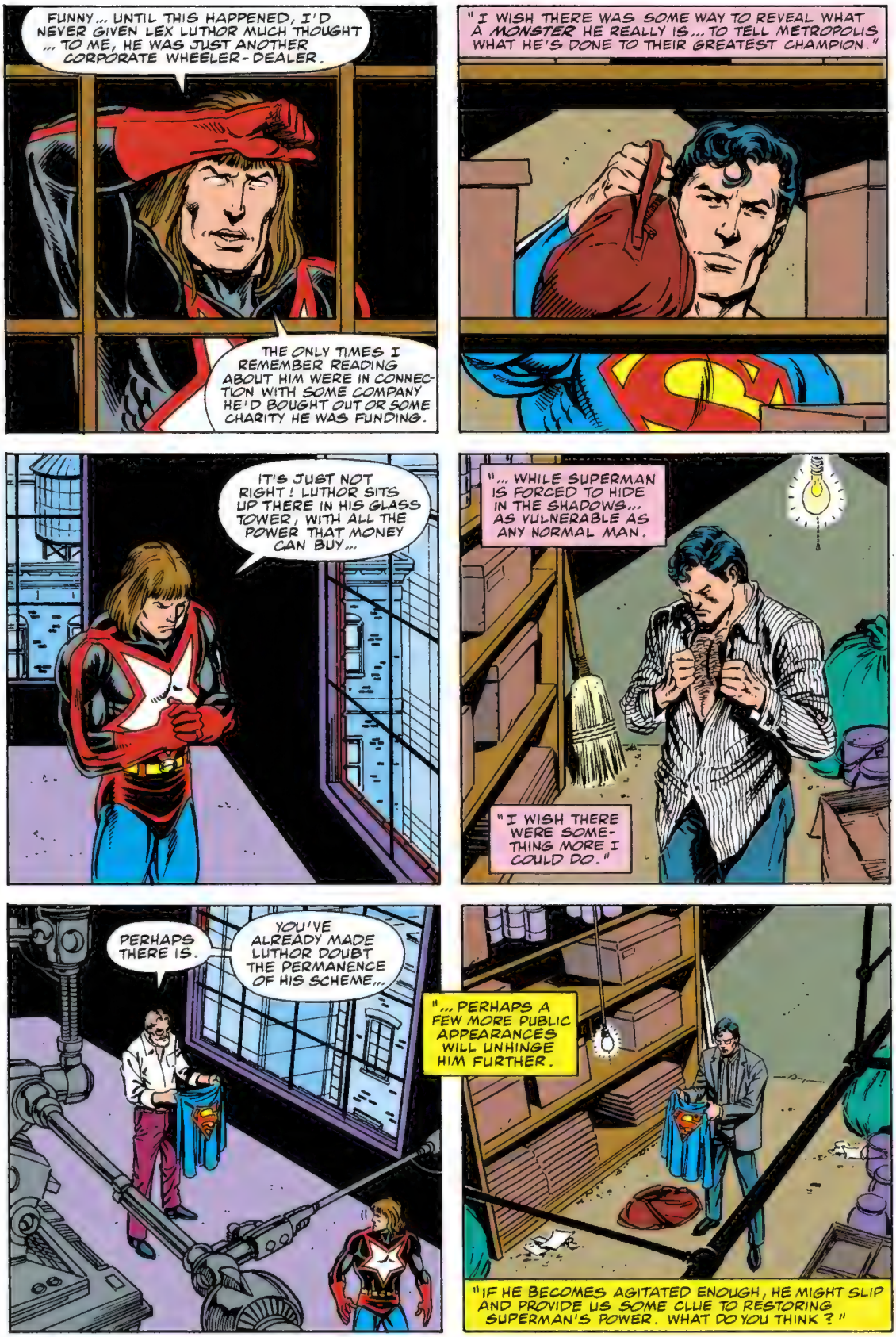
NOT EXACTLY, EMIL, BUT IT WAS... DIFFERENT. YOUR ARMOR RESPONDS TO MOVEMENT VERY WELL, BUT THERE IS A SLIGHT LAG...
...IT'LL TAKE GETTING USED TO.
I STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW QUICKLY YOU FINISHED THIS SUPER-SUIT, PROFESSOR.
JUST A MATTER OF ASSEMBLING THE PROPER COMPONENTS, SON. GOT A GOOD DEAL ON SOME NASA SURPLUS LAST WEEK... MICRO-MOTORS AND SUCH.
BEST WORK ON THE HELMET'S AUTO-FEED, TOO. MAKES HIM SOUND TOO HOLLOW, AS IS.

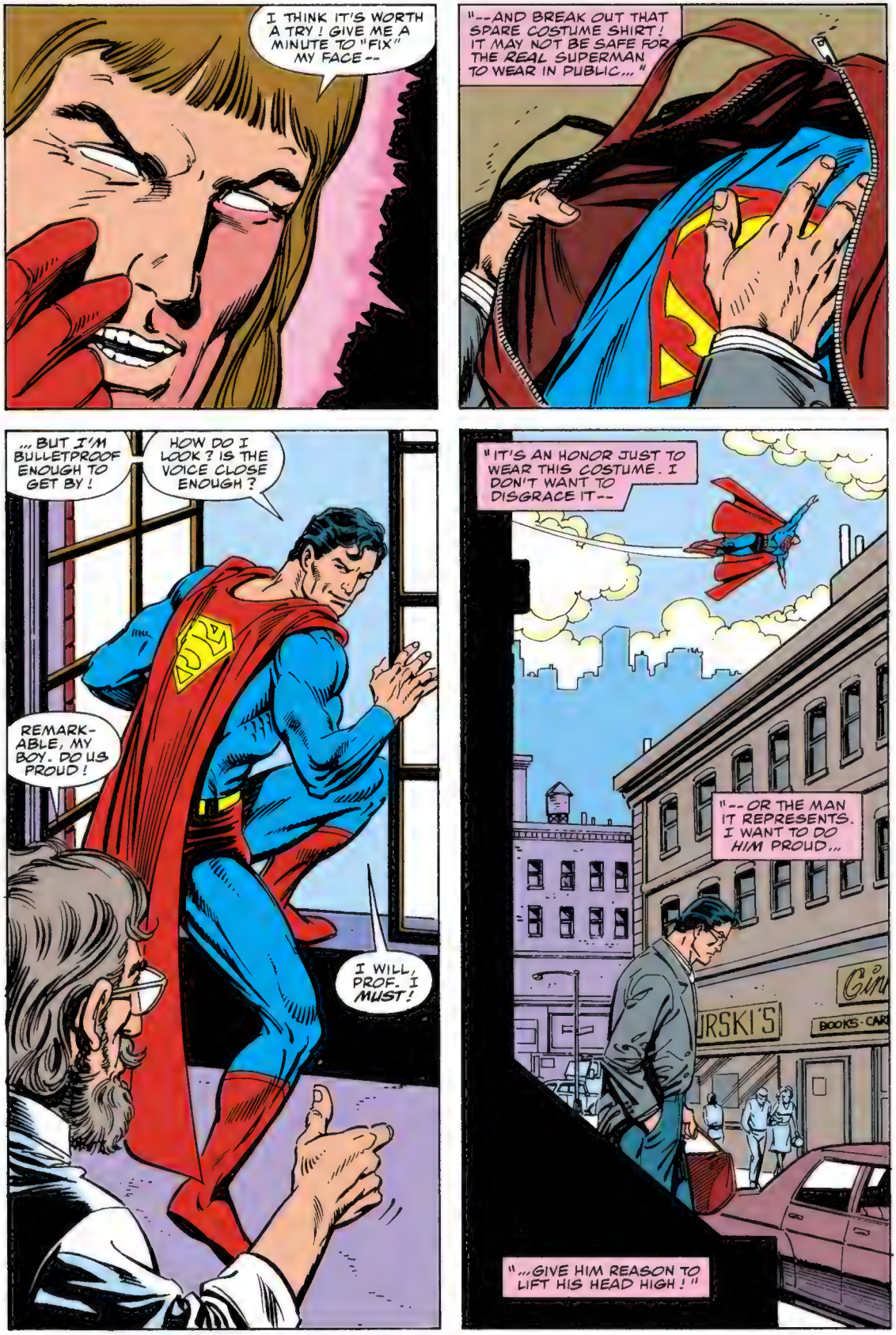
OH, MIND THE EXPLOSIVE BOLTS!
EXPLOSIVE BOLTS?! WHY ON EARTH DOES IT HAVE -- ?!
FOR FAST EMERGENCY REMOVAL. DON'T GET YOURSELF IN AN UPROAR... YOUR EYES ARE GOING FUNNY AGAIN.
SORRY. I SHOULD GO BACK --

--TO THIS FACE, ANYWAY.
SUPERMAN, LISTEN...


...ARE YOU SURE THIS SUIT IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA? NO OFFENSE TO PROFESSOR HAMILTON--BUT HIS ARMOR CAN'T MAKE YOU AS STRONG AS YOU WERE... OR ANYWHERE NEAR AS INVULNERABLE!
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME LOOK AFTER METROPOLIS? JUST UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT A WAY TO RESTORE YOUR POWERS--?
THAT MIGHT BE A VERY LONG TIME, STARMAN.
I'D THOUGHT THAT LUTHOR SOMEHOW LEECHED THE SOLAR ENERGY FROM MY BODY, REMEMBER--
"--BUT WHEN YOU TRIED TO RE-ENERGIZE ME WITH YOUR OWN SOLAR ENERGY..."*
*SEE STARMAN #28, ON SALE NOW!
...ALL I GOT WAS A MILD CASE OF SUNBURN.
WELL, AT LEAST MY SUPERMAN IMPERSONATION TRICKED THIS ROCK AWAY FROM LUTHOR. WITH ALL THE FAITH HE PUT IN IT, IT MUST HOLD SOME KEY.
I WOULD AGREE, BUT I'VE YET TO FIND ANYTHING HERE THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED OUR FRIEND'S POWER LOSS.
THIS IS NOT LIKE ANY KRYPTONITE I'VE ANALYZED BEFORE--IT'S NOT EVEN RADIOACTIVE! JUST MILDLY PHOSPHORESCENT.
STILL, THERE HAS TO BE AN ANSWER! I'LL KEEP AT IT UNTIL I FIND ONE!

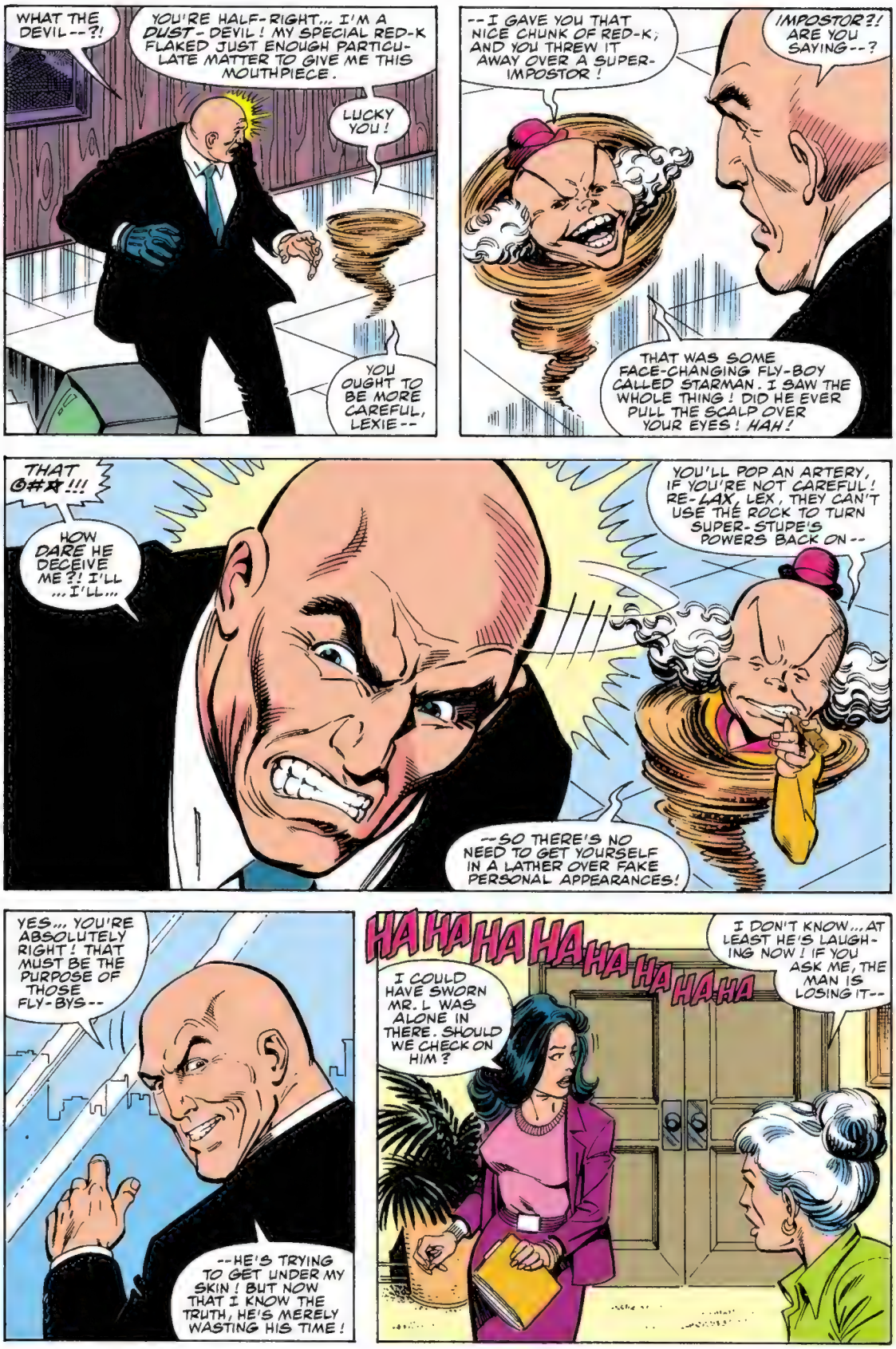

I ; YAWN ; APPRECIATE THAT, PROFESSOR.
YOU'VE BEEN UP FOR NEARLY 30 HOURS. WHY DON'T YOU FLOP ON MY COUCH AND CATCH A FEW WINKS?
EVEN A SUPERMAN NEEDS TO SLEEP, AND...
... AND I'M HARDLY A SUPERMAN ANYMORE, AM I?
THANKS FOR THE OFFER, EMIL--
-- BUT THERE'S OTHER BUSINESS I NEED TO CATCH UP ON.
DON'T WORRY...
... I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
I'VE SELDOM SEEN ANYBODY LOOK THAT WEARY... SEEING SUPERMAN LIKE THAT IS DOWNRIGHT SPOOKY.
PROFESSOR, SHOULD WE LET HIM JUST WALK OFF LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT WE STOP HIM?
NO... NO, I GUESS NOT...
"... IT'S JUST THAT... IF THE WORD GOT OUT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM... DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY ENEMIES WOULD GO GUNNING FOR HIM?"
"A GREAT MANY, I IMAGINE. I'M SURE HE'S CONSIDERED THAT... WE MUST TRUST IN HIM TO BE CAUTIOUS."
JANITOR
"I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I HATE TO THINK OF SUPERMAN HAVING TO SKULK AROUND BUILDINGS THAT HE SHOULD BE FLYING OVER."

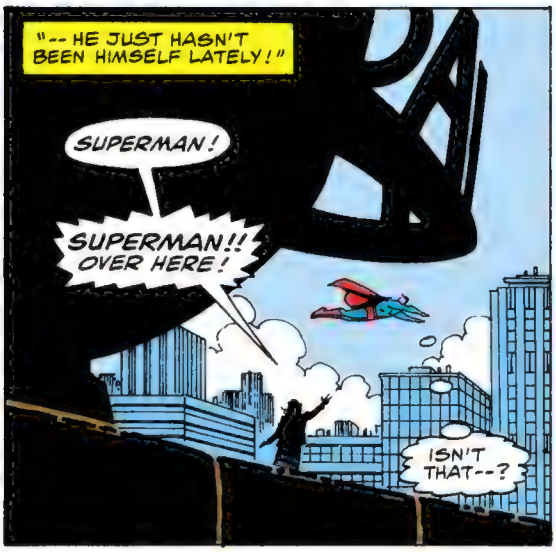

FUNNY... UNTIL THIS HAPPENED, I'D NEVER GIVEN LEX LUTHOR MUCH THOUGHT ... TO ME, HE WAS JUST ANOTHER CORPORATE WHEELER-DEALER.
THE ONLY TIMES I REMEMBER READING ABOUT HIM WERE IN CONNECTION WITH SOME COMPANY HE'D BOUGHT OUT OR SOME CHARITY HE WAS FUNDING.
"I WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY TO REVEAL WHAT A MONSTER HE REALLY IS... TO TELL METROPOLIS WHAT HE'S DONE TO THEIR GREATEST CHAMPION."
IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT! LUTHOR SITS UP THERE IN HIS GLASS TOWER, WITH ALL THE POWER THAT MONEY CAN BUY...
"... WHILE SUPERMAN IS FORCED TO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS... AS VULNERABLE AS ANY NORMAL MAN.
"I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING MORE I COULD DO."
PERHAPS THERE IS.
YOU'VE ALREADY MADE LUTHOR DOUBT THE PERMANENCE OF HIS SCHEME...
"... PERHAPS A FEW MORE PUBLIC APPEARANCES WILL UNHINGE HIM FURTHER.
"IF HE BECOMES AGITATED ENOUGH, HE MIGHT SLIP AND PROVIDE US SOME CLUE TO RESTORING SUPERMAN'S POWER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?"


I THINK IT'S WORTH A TRY! GIVE ME A MINUTE TO "FIX" MY FACE--
"--AND BREAK OUT THAT SPARE COSTUME SHIRT! IT MAY NOT BE SAFE FOR THE REAL SUPERMAN TO WEAR IN PUBLIC..."
...BUT I'M BULLETPROOF ENOUGH TO GET BY!
HOW DO I LOOK? IS THE VOICE CLOSE ENOUGH?
REMARKABLE, MY BOY. DO US PROUD!
I WILL, PROF. I MUST!
"IT'S AN HONOR JUST TO WEAR THIS COSTUME. I DON'T WANT TO DISGRACE IT--
"--OR THE MAN IT REPRESENTS. I WANT TO DO HIM PROUD...
"...GIVE HIM REASON TO LIFT HIS HEAD HIGH!"

STRYKER'S ISLAND. THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM SECURITY INTERNMENT CENTER...
WHAT'S THIS YOU WANTED TO TELL ME, JENKINS?
'M NOT SURE WHERE TO START, WARDEN. ALL WEEK LONG, I BEEN HEARIN' RUMORS 'BOUT A BREAK--!
IT AIN'T JUST A RUMOR, PIGEON!
GOOD LORD!
WARDEN
KEEP THOSE HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM, WARDEN!
I'M DEAD ...OGOD, I'M DEAD!
DON'T SHOOT!
WHATEVER YOUR GRIEVANCES ARE, I-I'M SURE WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM--!
YOU'RE HARDLY IN ANY POSITION TO MAKE DEALS, WARDEN.
KILLGRAVE!
TIE HIM UP, KENNETH.
JUST A FORMALITY, WARDEN... ALL PART OF THE CHANGE IN MANAGE-MENT.
WHAT--?
THINK OF THIS AS A HOSTILE TAKEOVER. YOUR GUARDS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER LOCK AND KEY, REPLACED BY MY OWN RE-CRUITS...
...THIS ISLAND IS NOW UNDER MY COM-PLETE CONTROL!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, KILLGRAVE. MY HANDS MAY BE TIED, BUT WHEN SUPER-MAN FINDS OUT--!
OH, I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM TO FIND OUT, WARDEN! I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL PREPARED FOR HIM... SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL!

MEANWHILE...
IT'S SUPAH-MAN!
AW-RIGHT!
LOOK AT HIM GO!
OH, YEAH! I COULD GET USED TO THIS REAL FAST!
WHAT A MAN!
WHATTA GUY!
WOW!
WISH I COULD FLY!
CAREFUL NOW! THOSE SMILES AND WAVES WEREN'T REALLY FOR ME--
--THEY WERE FOR SUPERMAN! HE'S THE ONE WHO EARNED THEM!
CAN'T LET MYSELF BASK IN THE ADULATION-- I HAVE A JOB TO DO...
...MAKING THINGS UNCOMFORTABLE FOR OLD BALDY!
THERE HE GOES AGAIN... BOLD AS BRASS!
SO MUCH FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MXYZPTLK'S RED KRYPTONITE! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT LITTLE DEMON WOULD DOUBLE-CROSS ME!
THAT'S MISTER DEMON TO YOU! BESIDES, YOU'RE WRONG!
?


WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
YOU'RE HALF-RIGHT... I'M A DUST-DEVIL! MY SPECIAL RED-K FLAKED JUST ENOUGH PARTICULATE MATTER TO GIVE ME THIS MOUTHPIECE.
LUCKY YOU!
YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CAREFUL, LEXIE--
--I GAVE YOU THAT NICE CHUNK OF RED-K; AND YOU THREW IT AWAY OVER A SUPER-IMPOSTOR!
IMPOSTOR?! ARE YOU SAYING--?
THAT WAS SOME FACE-CHANGING FLY-BOY CALLED STARMAN. I SAW THE WHOLE THING! DID HE EVER PULL THE SCALP OVER YOUR EYES! HAH!
THAT @#☆!!!
HOW DARE HE DECEIVE ME?! I'LL ...I'LL...
YOU'LL POP AN ARTERY, IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL! RE-LAX, LEX, THEY CAN'T USE THE ROCK TO TURN SUPER-STUPE'S POWERS BACK ON--
--SO THERE'S NO NEED TO GET YOURSELF IN A LATHER OVER FAKE PERSONAL APPEARANCES!
YES... YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! THAT MUST BE THE PURPOSE OF THOSE FLY-BYS--
--HE'S TRYING TO GET UNDER MY SKIN! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW THE TRUTH, HE'S MERELY WASTING HIS TIME!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
I COULD HAVE SWORN MR. L WAS ALONE IN THERE. SHOULD WE CHECK ON HIM?
I DON'T KNOW... AT LEAST HE'S LAUGHING NOW! IF YOU ASK ME, THE MAN IS LOSING IT--


"-- HE JUST HASN'T BEEN HIMSELF LATELY!"
SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN!! OVER HERE!
ISN'T THAT--?

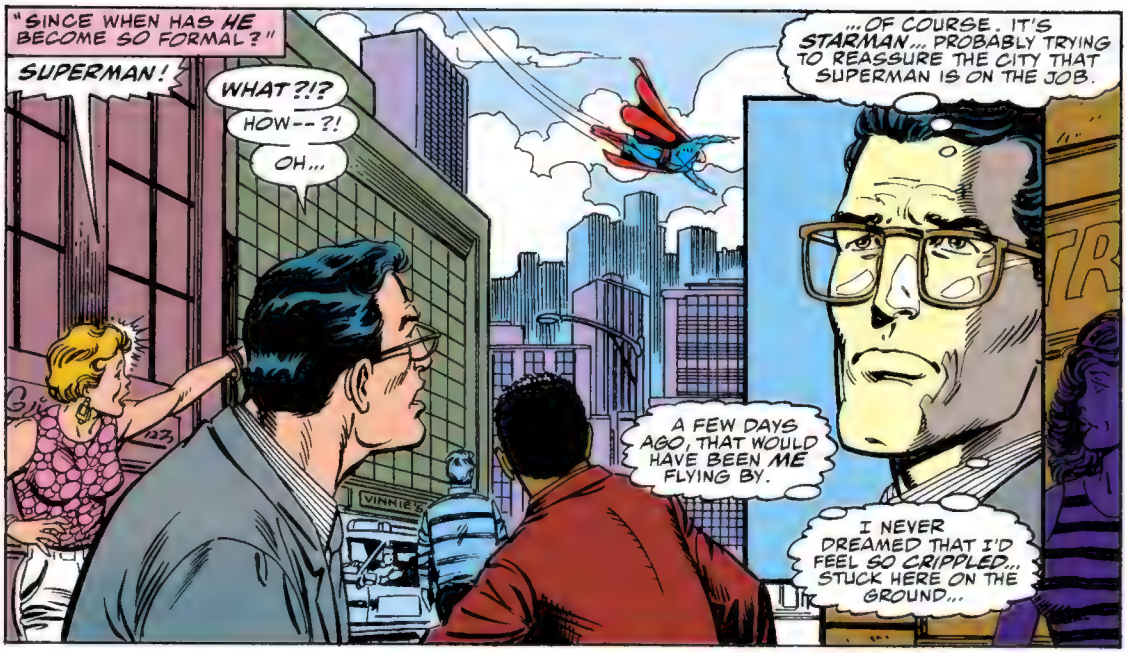
YEAH, LOIS LANE! I'VE SEEN HER PICTURE IN THE PAPERS...
... IN CONNECTION WITH STORIES ABOUT SUPERMAN! WILL I PASS HER INSPECTION? WHAT DO I SAY TO HER?
UH, HELLO! HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU?
THEY'VE BEEN BETTER...

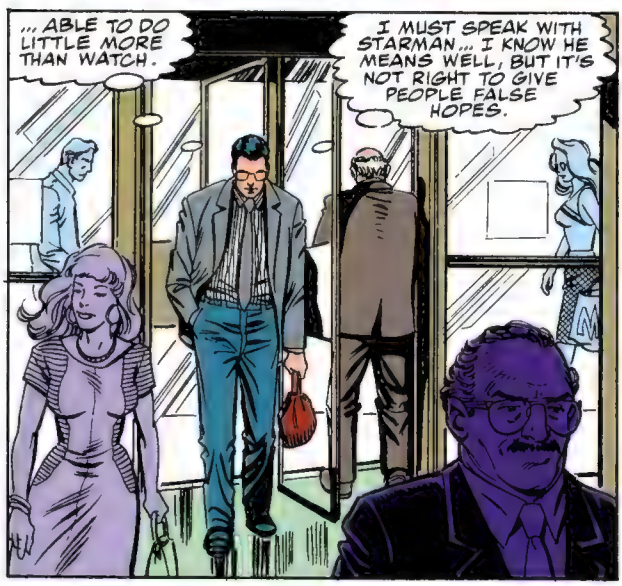
... HASN'T CLARK TOLD YOU ABOUT MY MOTHER'S CONDITION?
CLARK? UH, NO. I... HAVEN'T SEEN CLARK IN A WHILE.
I'M SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THIS...

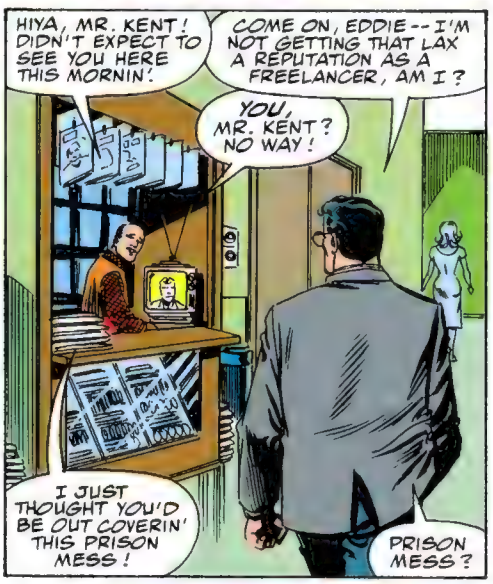
WELL, MOM'S TOUGH... WE JUST HAVE TO HAVE FAITH.
BUT I DIDN'T FLAG YOU DOWN TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS.
AN ALERT JUST CAME OVER THE POLICE SCANNER... THERE'S SOME SORT OF EMERGENCY ON THE WEST RIVER! THE POLICE WANT YOU DOWN AT PIER 10!

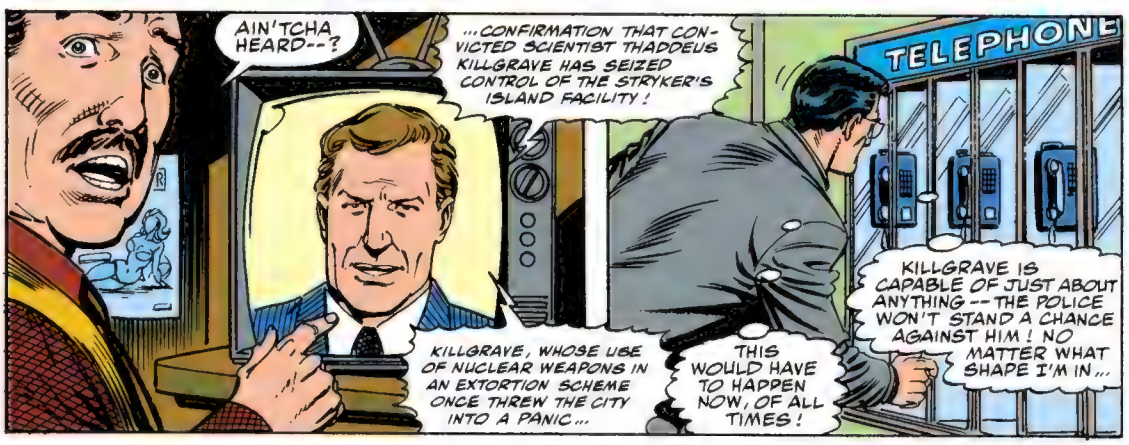
PIER 10... GOT IT!
I'M ON MY WAY. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MS. LANE!

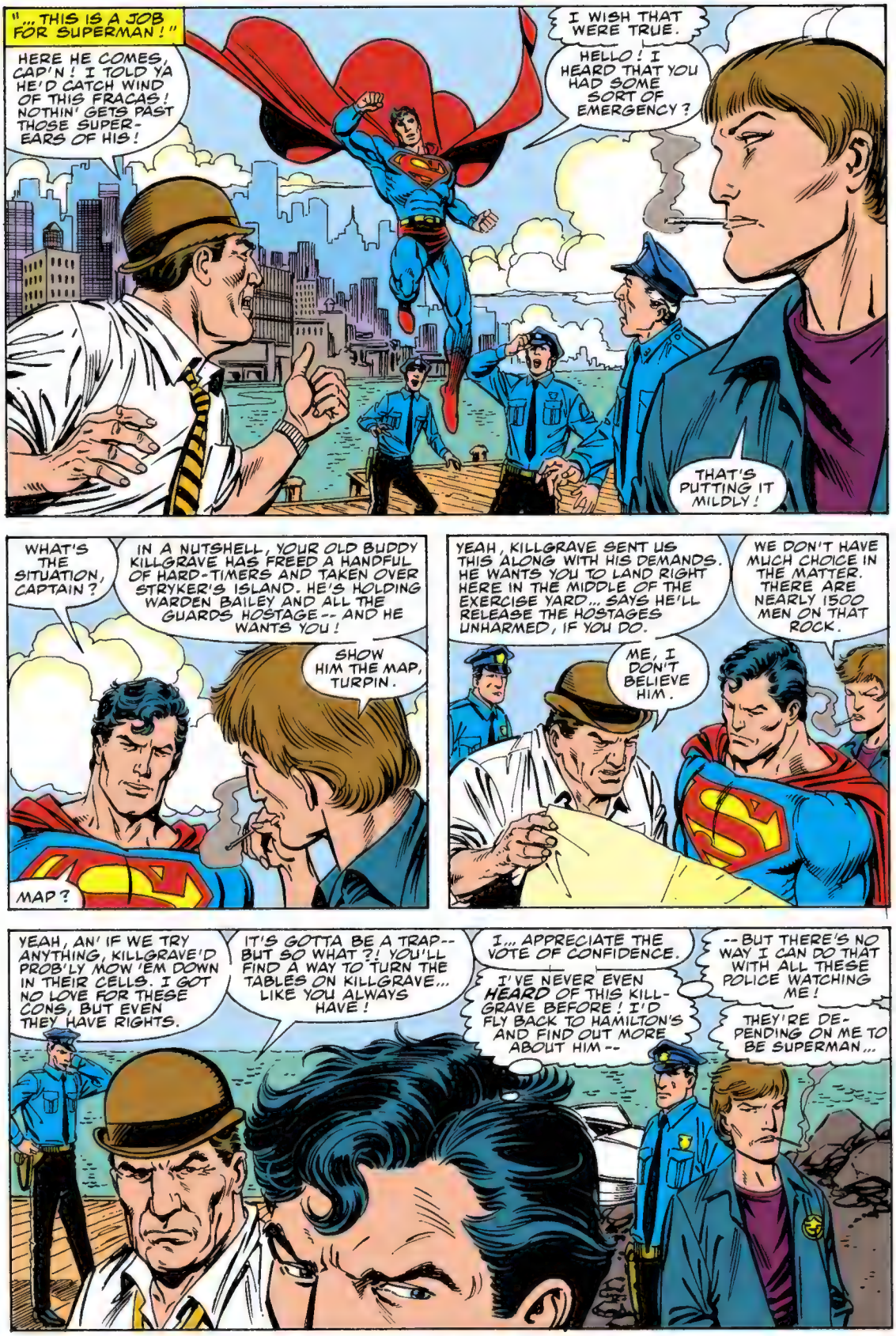
"MS. LANE"?!?

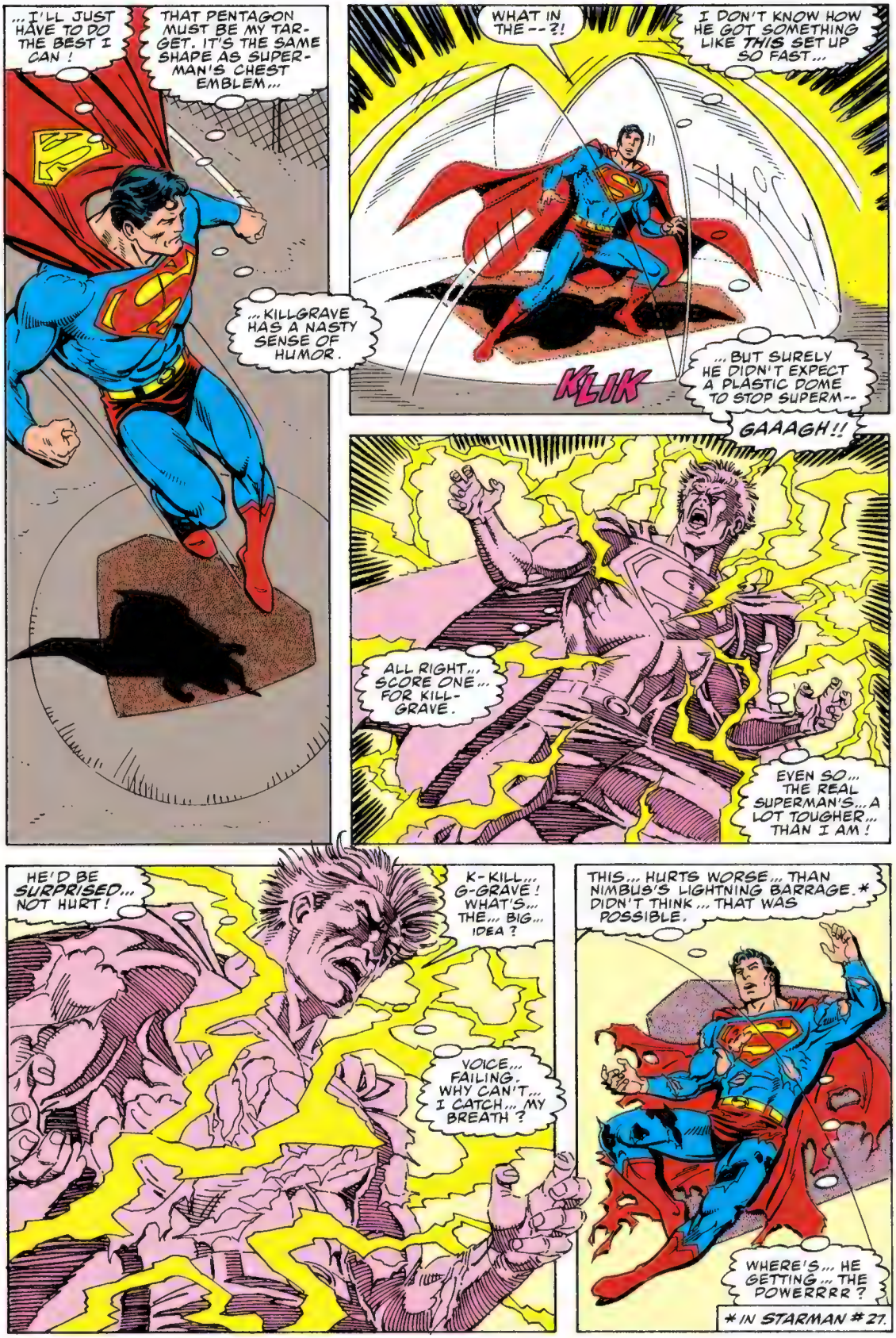

"SINCE WHEN HAS HE BECOME SO FORMAL?"
SUPERMAN!
WHAT?!?
HOW--?!
OH...
...OF COURSE. IT'S STARMAN... PROBABLY TRYING TO REASSURE THE CITY THAT SUPERMAN IS ON THE JOB.
A FEW DAYS AGO, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME FLYING BY.
I NEVER DREAMED THAT I'D FEEL SO CRIPPLED... STUCK HERE ON THE GROUND...

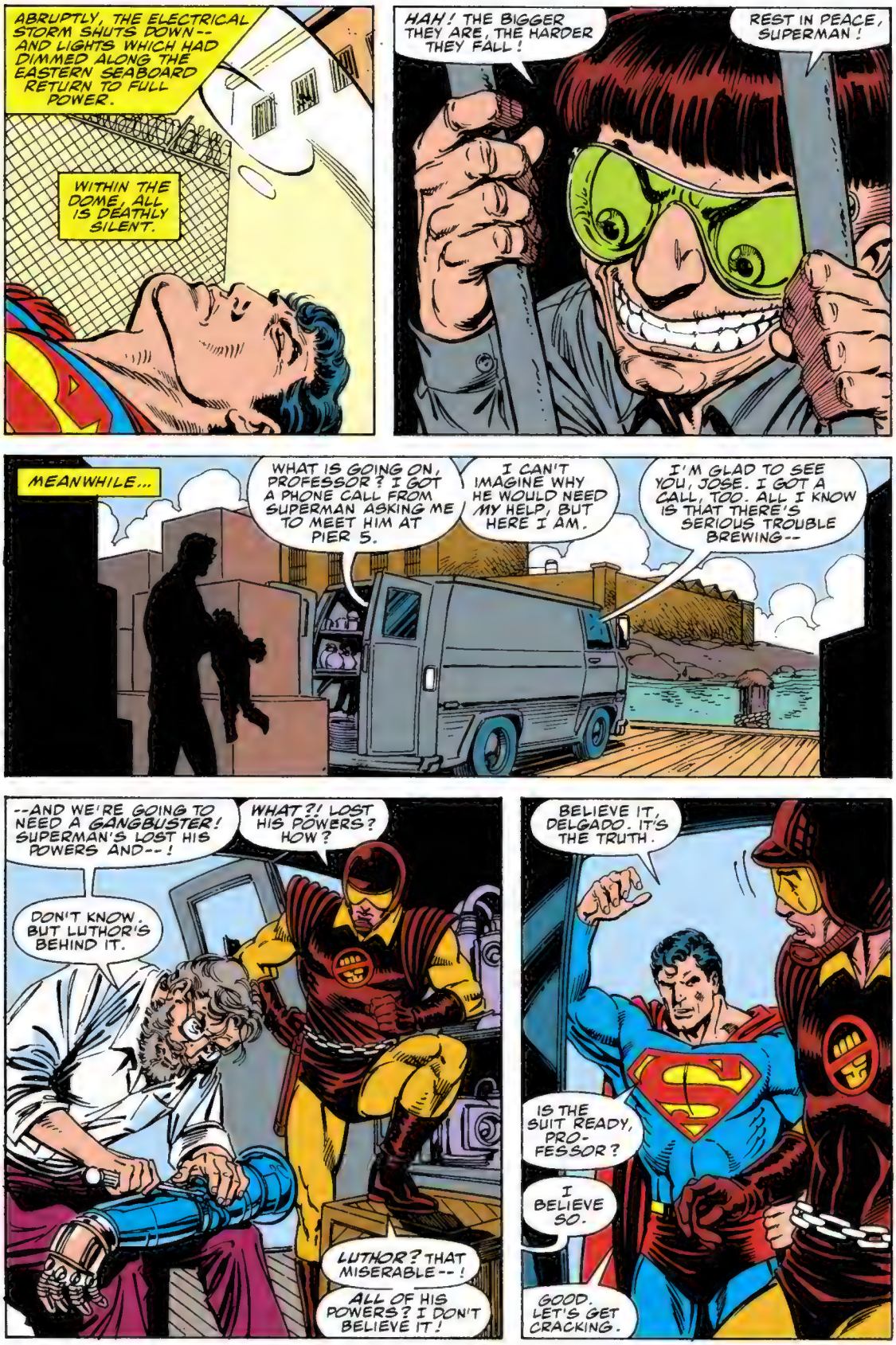

...ABLE TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN WATCH.
I MUST SPEAK WITH STARMAN... I KNOW HE MEANS WELL, BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT TO GIVE PEOPLE FALSE HOPES.

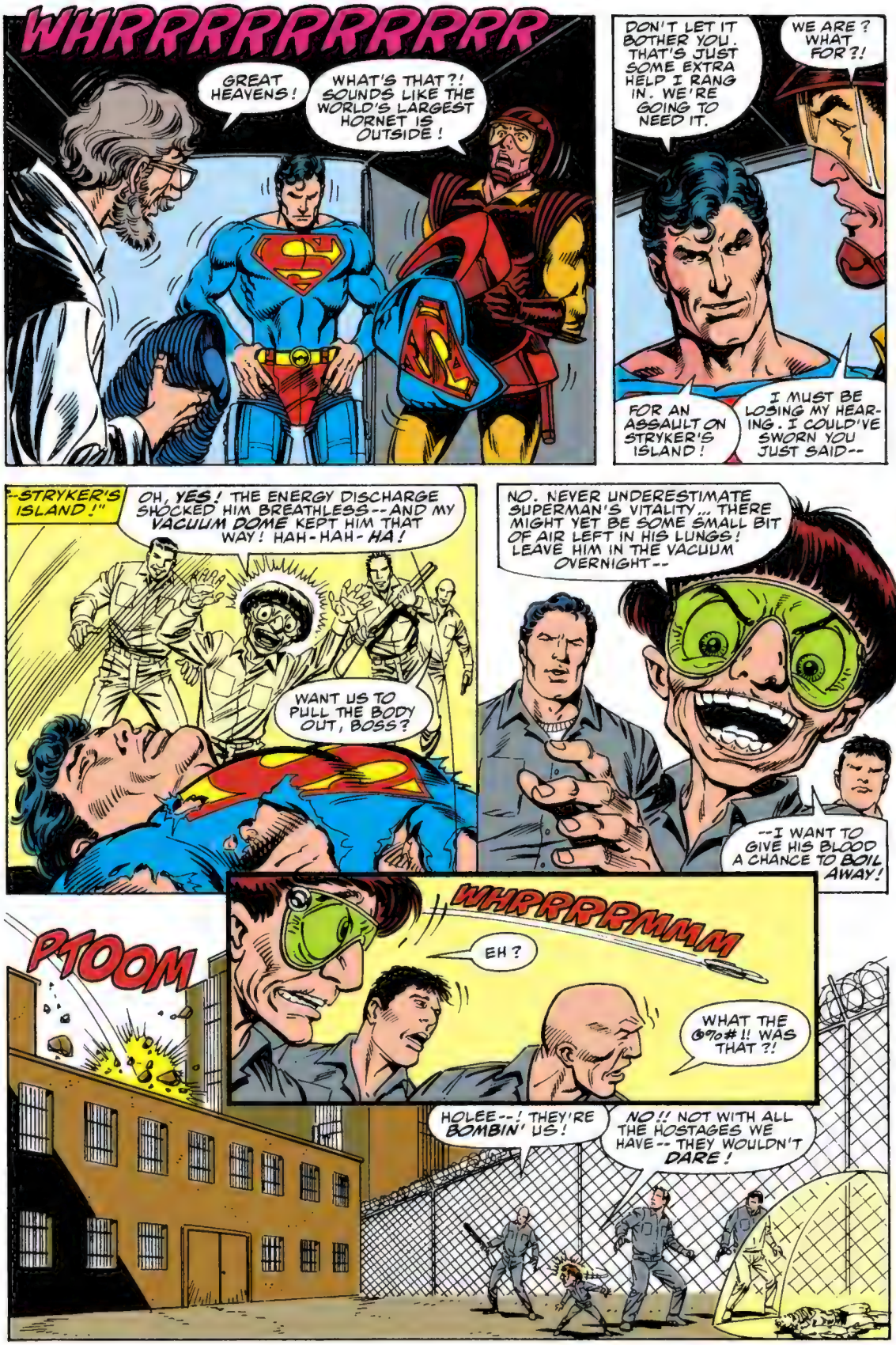

HIYA, MR. KENT! DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE THIS MORNIN'.
COME ON, EDDIE--I'M NOT GETTING THAT LAX A REPUTATION AS A FREELANCER, AM I?
YOU, MR. KENT? NO WAY!
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D BE OUT COVERIN' THIS PRISON MESS!
PRISON MESS?


AIN'TCHA HEARD--?
...CONFIRMATION THAT CONVICTED SCIENTIST THADDEUS KILLGRAVE HAS SEIZED CONTROL OF THE STRYKER'S ISLAND FACILITY!
TELEPHONE
KILLGRAVE, WHOSE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN AN EXTORTION SCHEME ONCE THREW THE CITY INTO A PANIC...
THIS WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN NOW, OF ALL TIMES!
KILLGRAVE IS CAPABLE OF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING--THE POLICE WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM! NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE I'M IN...

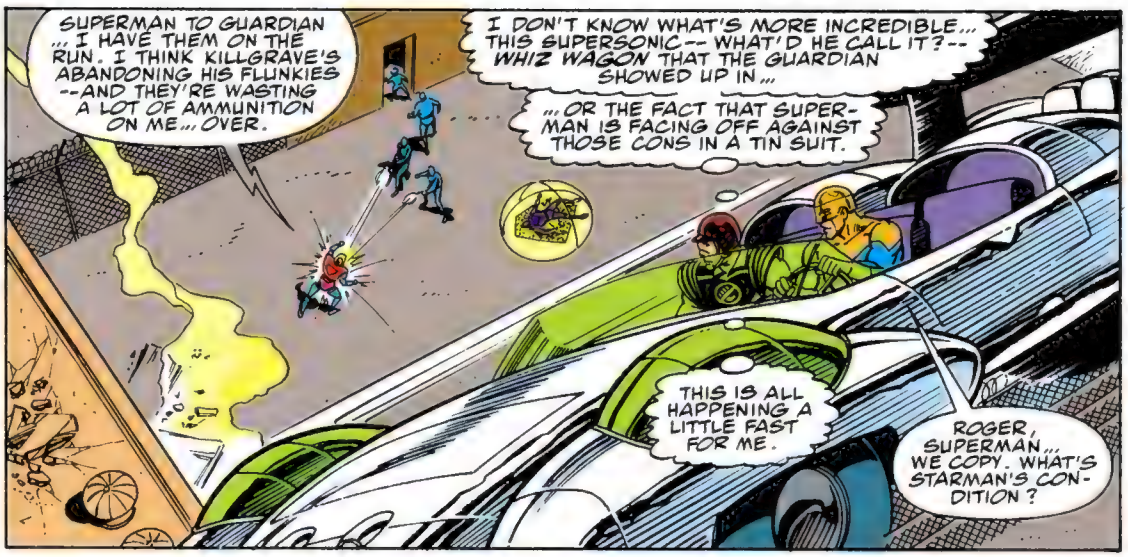

"... THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!"
HERE HE COMES, CAP'N! I TOLD YA HE'D CATCH WIND OF THIS FRACAS! NOTHIN' GETS PAST THOSE SUPER-EARS OF HIS!
I WISH THAT WERE TRUE.
HELLO! I HEARD THAT YOU HAD SOME SORT OF EMERGENCY?
THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY!
WHAT'S THE SITUATION, CAPTAIN?
IN A NUTSHELL, YOUR OLD BUDDY KILLGRAVE HAS FREED A HANDFUL OF HARD-TIMERS AND TAKEN OVER STRYKER'S ISLAND. HE'S HOLDING WARDEN BAILEY AND ALL THE GUARDS HOSTAGE -- AND HE WANTS YOU!
SHOW HIM THE MAP, TURPIN.
MAP?
YEAH, KILLGRAVE SENT US THIS ALONG WITH HIS DEMANDS. HE WANTS YOU TO LAND RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EXERCISE YARD... SAYS HE'LL RELEASE THE HOSTAGES UNHARMED, IF YOU DO.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER. THERE ARE NEARLY 1500 MEN ON THAT ROCK.
ME, I DON'T BELIEVE HIM.
YEAH, AN' IF WE TRY ANYTHING, KILLGRAVE'D PROB'LY MOW 'EM DOWN IN THEIR CELLS. I GOT NO LOVE FOR THESE CONS, BUT EVEN THEY HAVE RIGHTS.
IT'S GOTTA BE A TRAP -- BUT SO WHAT?! YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO TURN THE TABLES ON KILLGRAVE... LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE!
I... APPRECIATE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.
I'VE NEVER EVEN *HEARD* OF THIS KILLGRAVE BEFORE! I'D FLY BACK TO HAMILTON'S AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM --
-- BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT WITH ALL THESE POLICE WATCHING ME!
THEY'RE DEPENDING ON ME TO BE SUPERMAN...

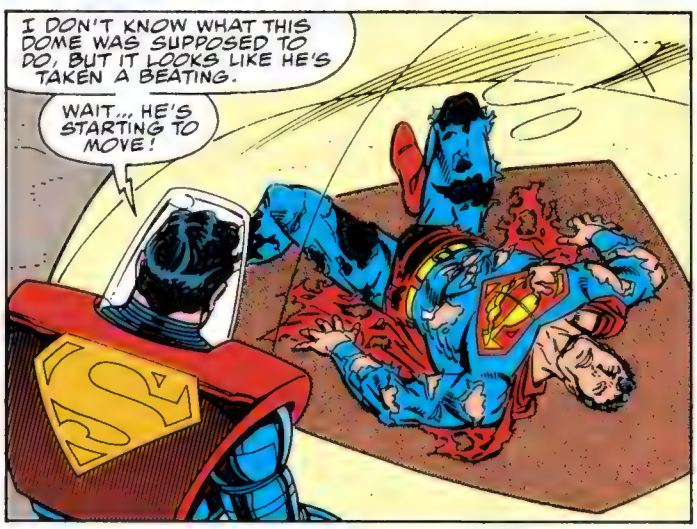

...I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO THE BEST I CAN!
THAT PENTAGON MUST BE MY TARGET. IT'S THE SAME SHAPE AS SUPERMAN'S CHEST EMBLEM...
...KILLGRAVE HAS A NASTY SENSE OF HUMOR.
WHAT IN THE--?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT SOMETHING LIKE THIS SET UP SO FAST...
KLIK
...BUT SURELY HE DIDN'T EXPECT A PLASTIC DOME TO STOP SUPERM--
GAAAGH!!
ALL RIGHT... SCORE ONE... FOR KILLGRAVE.
EVEN SO... THE REAL SUPERMAN'S... A LOT TOUGHER... THAN I AM!
HE'D BE SURPRISED... NOT HURT!
K-KILL... G-GRAVE! WHAT'S... THE... BIG... IDEA?
VOICE... FAILING. WHY CAN'T... I CATCH... MY BREATH?
THIS... HURTS WORSE... THAN NIMBUS'S LIGHTNING BARRAGE.* DIDN'T THINK... THAT WAS POSSIBLE.
WHERE'S... HE GETTING... THE POWERRRR?
*IN STARMAN #27.

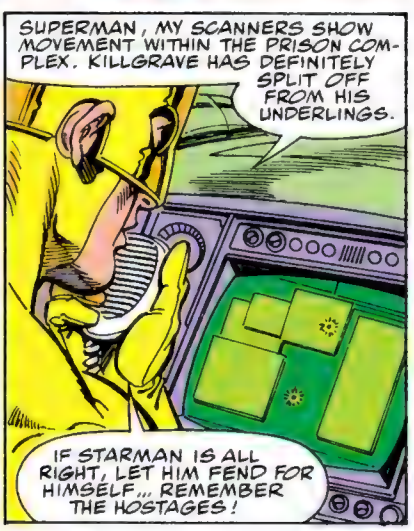

ABRUPTLY, THE ELECTRICAL STORM SHUTS DOWN-- AND LIGHTS WHICH HAD DIMMED ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD RETURN TO FULL POWER.
WITHIN THE DOME, ALL IS DEATHLY SILENT.
HAH! THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!
REST IN PEACE, SUPERMAN!
MEANWHILE...
WHAT IS GOING ON, PROFESSOR? I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM SUPERMAN ASKING ME TO MEET HIM AT PIER 5.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY HE WOULD NEED MY HELP, BUT HERE I AM.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, JOSE. I GOT A CALL, TOO. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THERE'S SERIOUS TROUBLE BREWING--
--AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED A GANGBUSTER! SUPERMAN'S LOST HIS POWERS AND--!
WHAT?! LOST HIS POWERS? HOW?
DON'T KNOW. BUT LUTHOR'S BEHIND IT.
LUTHOR? THAT MISERABLE--!
ALL OF HIS POWERS? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
BELIEVE IT, DELGADO. IT'S THE TRUTH.
IS THE SUIT READY, PROFESSOR?
I BELIEVE SO.
GOOD. LET'S GET CRACKING.

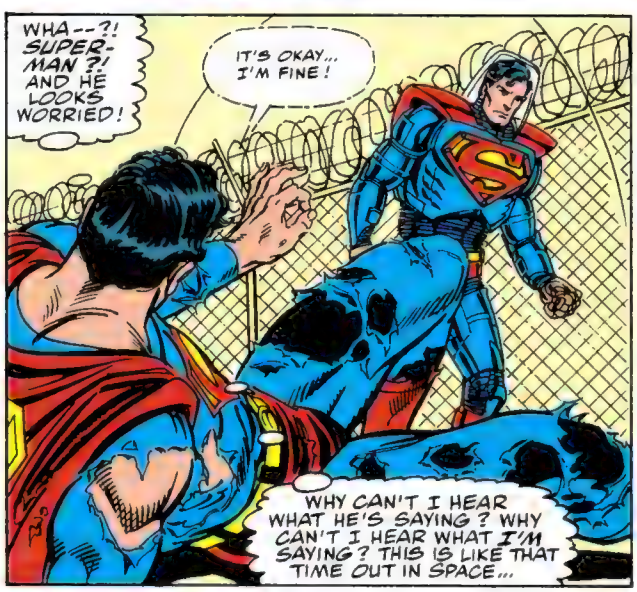

WHRRRRRRRRRRR
GREAT HEAVENS!
WHAT'S THAT?! SOUNDS LIKE THE WORLD'S LARGEST HORNET IS OUTSIDE!
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU. THAT'S JUST SOME EXTRA HELP I RANG IN. WE'RE GOING TO NEED IT.
WE ARE? WHAT FOR?!
FOR AN ASSAULT ON STRYKER'S ISLAND!
I MUST BE LOSING MY HEARING. I COULD'VE SWORN YOU JUST SAID--
--STRYKER'S ISLAND!"
OH, YES! THE ENERGY DISCHARGE SHOCKED HIM BREATHLESS--AND MY VACUUM DOME KEPT HIM THAT WAY! HAH-HAH-HA!
WANT US TO PULL THE BODY OUT, BOSS?
NO. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE SUPERMAN'S VITALITY... THERE MIGHT YET BE SOME SMALL BIT OF AIR LEFT IN HIS LUNGS! LEAVE HIM IN THE VACUUM OVERNIGHT--
--I WANT TO GIVE HIS BLOOD A CHANCE TO BOIL AWAY!
PTOOM
WHRRRRMMM
EH?
WHAT THE @%#!! WAS THAT?!
HOLEE--! THEY'RE BOMBIN' US!
NO!! NOT WITH ALL THE HOSTAGES WE HAVE-- THEY WOULDN'T DARE!

WELL, SOMETHIN' SLAMMED INTO THE STORAGE BUILDIN'-- AN' THAT WASN'T NO BIRD THAT JUST FLEW BY!
BUH-LAMM!
THAT WAS NO BOMB! IT... IT...
SHOOT, YOU IDIOTS!
BDAM. DAM!
PTOW!
POOM!
IT'S OVER, KILLGRAVE!
S-SUPERMAN?!?
NO, IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF ROBOT! SOME TRICK!
KEEP FIRING! DON'T LET UP!
BUT IT AIN'T DOIN' ANY GOOD, BOSS!
BOSS? HEY!


SUPERMAN TO GUARDIAN ... I HAVE THEM ON THE RUN. I THINK KILLGRAVE'S ABANDONING HIS FLUNKIES --AND THEY'RE WASTING A LOT OF AMMUNITION ON ME ... OVER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MORE INCREDIBLE... THIS SUPERSONIC-- WHAT'D HE CALL IT?-- WHIZ WAGON THAT THE GUARDIAN SHOWED UP IN ...
... OR THE FACT THAT SUPERMAN IS FACING OFF AGAINST THOSE CONS IN A TIN SUIT.
THIS IS ALL HAPPENING A LITTLE FAST FOR ME.
ROGER, SUPERMAN ... WE COPY. WHAT'S STARMAN'S CONDITION?

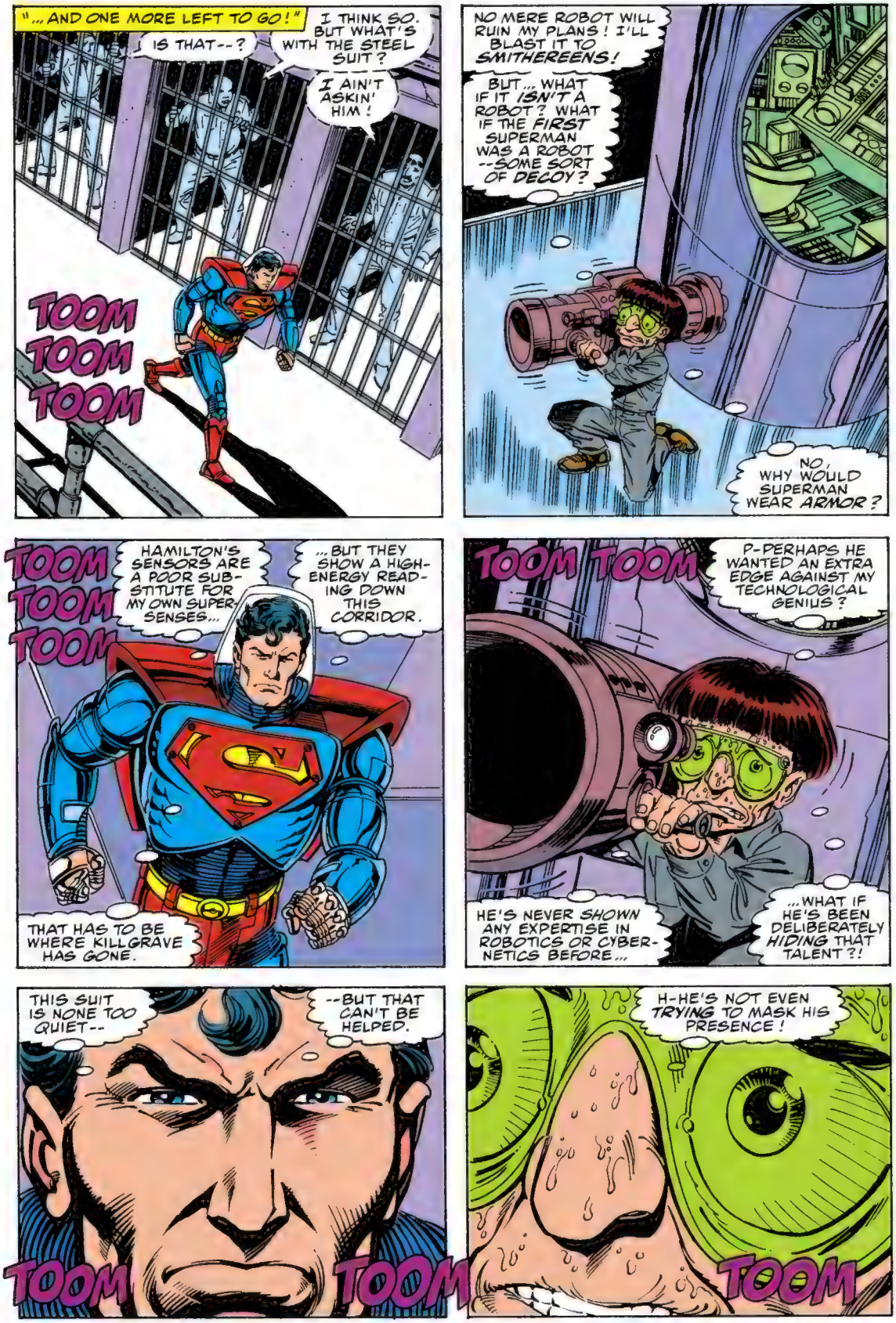

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS DOME WAS SUPPOSED TO DO, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TAKEN A BEATING.
WAIT ... HE'S STARTING TO MOVE!


SUPERMAN, MY SCANNERS SHOW MOVEMENT WITHIN THE PRISON COMPLEX. KILLGRAVE HAS DEFINITELY SPLIT OFF FROM HIS UNDERLINGS.
IF STARMAN IS ALL RIGHT, LET HIM FEND FOR HIMSELF ... REMEMBER THE HOSTAGES!

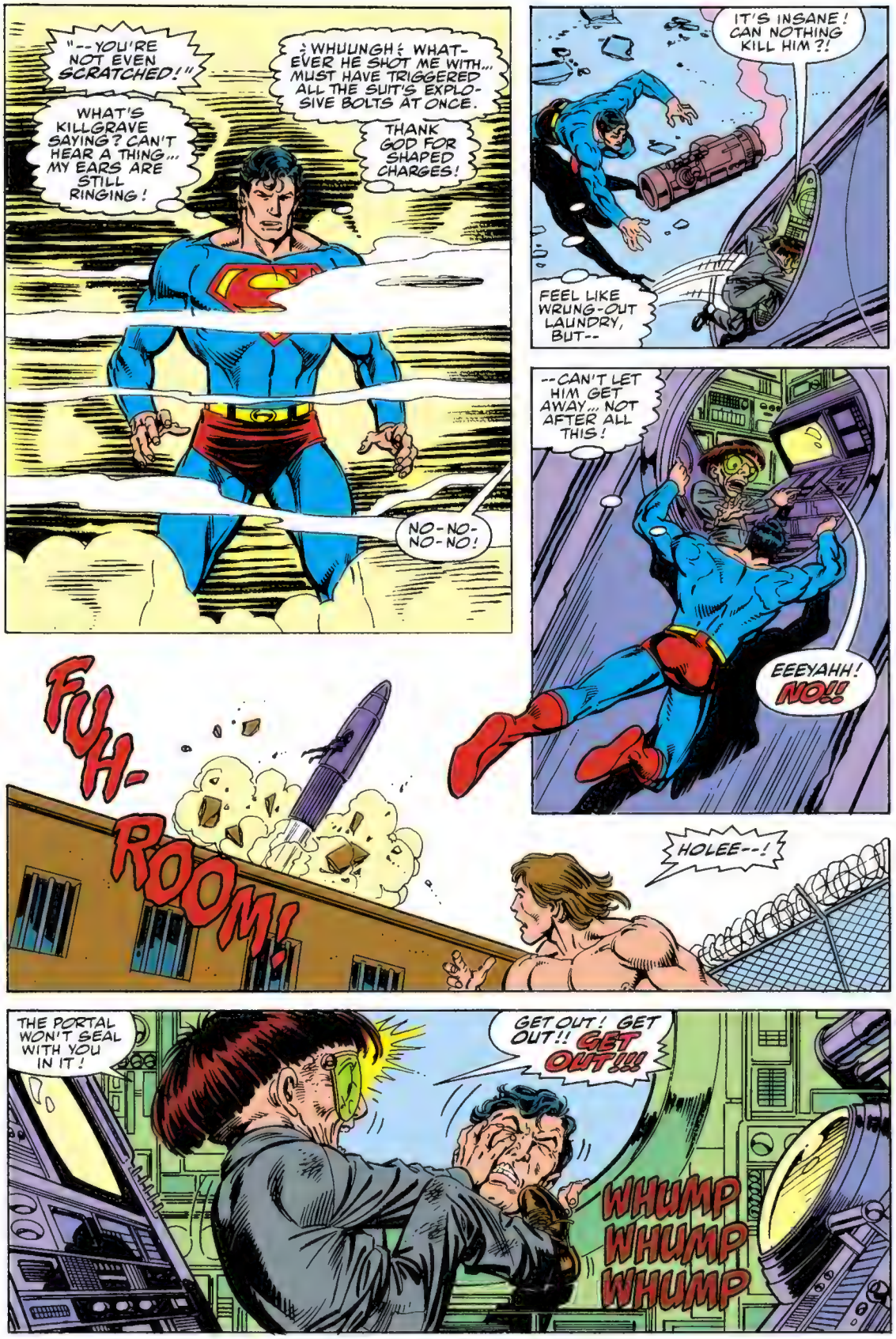

WHA--?! SUPERMAN?! AND HE LOOKS WORRIED!
IT'S OKAY ... I'M FINE!
WHY CAN'T I HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING? WHY CAN'T I HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING? THIS IS LIKE THAT TIME OUT IN SPACE...

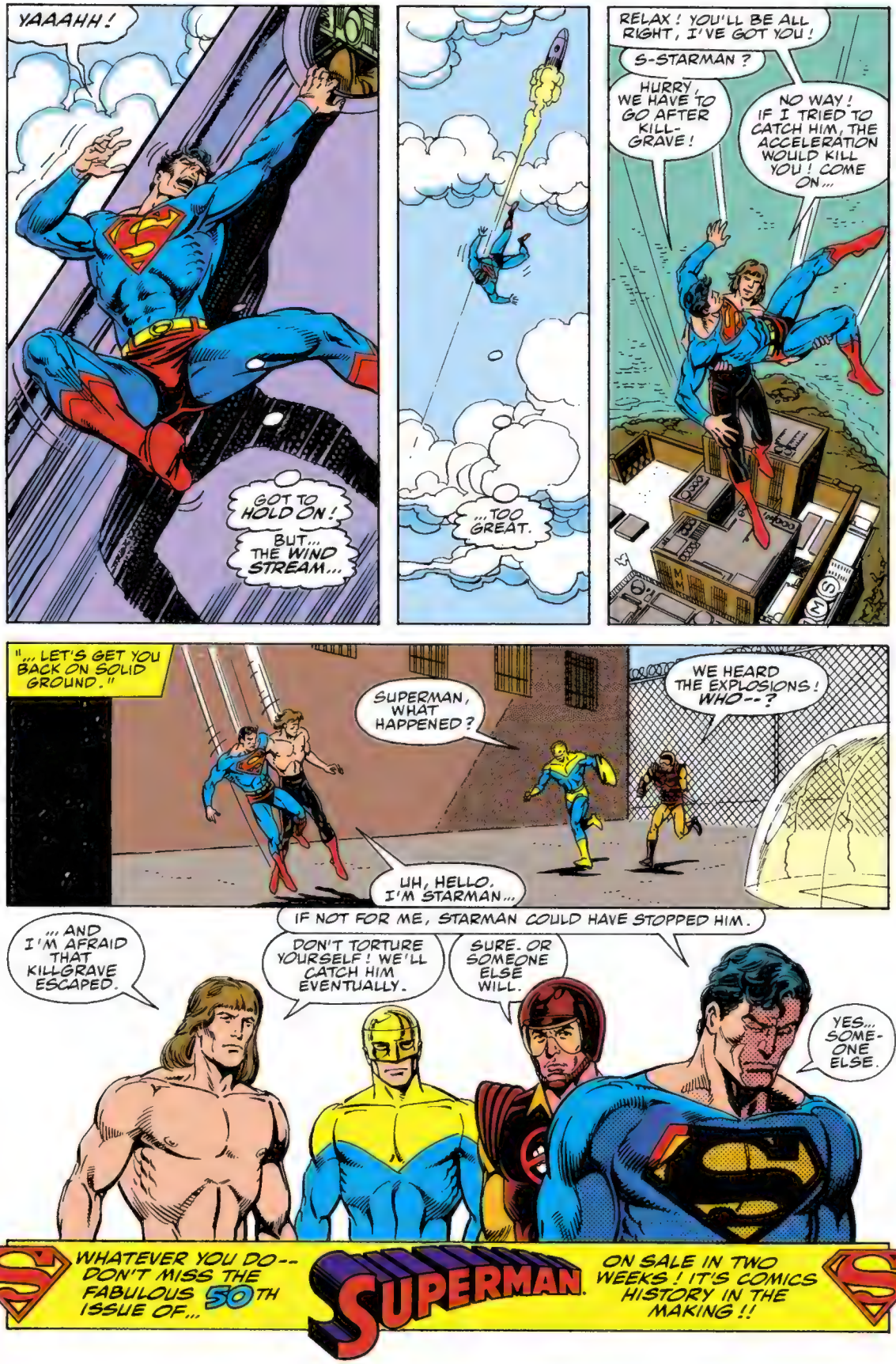
... KILLGRAVE MUST HAVE PUMPED ALL THE AIR OUT OF HERE! IT'S A GOOD THING I DON'T NEED TO BREATHE!
;UUNGH!; AIR OR NO AIR, I STILL HURT ALL OVER! GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER... SUPERMAN MAY NEED ME!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON OUT THERE?!
WE GOT TROUBLE-- SUPER-TROUBLE!
BREAK OUT THE HOSTAGES! WE'RE GONNA NEED 'EM TO BARGAIN OUR WAY OUTTA THIS!
KREEEEESSHH!
THERE'LL BE NO BARGAINS!
HUH?
WHO THE DEVIL IS THIS?!
THEY CALL ME GUARDIAN!
THE NAME FITS.
I GUARD SOCIETY--
--FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!
FREEZE, GOLD DOME! I GOT TWO LOADED BARRELS HERE, AND AT THIS RANGE, I CAN'T MISS!
NEITHER CAN I!
THAT'S FOUR DOWN...


"... AND ONE MORE LEFT TO GO!"
IS THAT--?
I THINK SO. BUT WHAT'S WITH THE STEEL SUIT?
I AIN'T ASKIN' HIM!
TOOM TOOM TOOM
NO MERE ROBOT WILL RUIN MY PLANS! I'LL BLAST IT TO SMITHEREENS!
BUT... WHAT IF IT ISN'T A ROBOT? WHAT IF THE FIRST SUPERMAN WAS A ROBOT --SOME SORT OF DECOY?
NO, WHY WOULD SUPERMAN WEAR ARMOR?
TOOM TOOM TOOM
HAMILTON'S SENSORS ARE A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR MY OWN SUPER-SENSES...
...BUT THEY SHOW A HIGH-ENERGY READING DOWN THIS CORRIDOR.
THAT HAS TO BE WHERE KILLGRAVE HAS GONE.
TOOM TOOM
P-PERHAPS HE WANTED AN EXTRA EDGE AGAINST MY TECHNOLOGICAL GENIUS?
HE'S NEVER SHOWN ANY EXPERTISE IN ROBOTICS OR CYBERNETICS BEFORE...
...WHAT IF HE'S BEEN DELIBERATELY HIDING THAT TALENT?!
THIS SUIT IS NONE TOO QUIET--
--BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
TOOM TOOM
H-HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO MASK HIS PRESENCE!
TOOM

KILLGRAVE--!
G-G-GET BACK! O-OR, I SWEAR, I'LL BLOW YOU TO KINGDOM COME!
WAIT...
I-I WARNED YOU!
KRA-
KOOM
KILLGRAVE'S PLASTIC IS TOUGHER THAN IT LOOKS! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER MELT OUT OF--!
WHAT IN THE--?!
OH, MY GOD! I DON'T BELIEVE IT--
UH-OH. I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
NOR DO I-- IT WAS LIKE A BOMB GOING OFF!


"--YOU'RE NOT EVEN SCRATCHED!"
WHAT'S KILLGRAVE SAYING? CAN'T HEAR A THING... MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING!
;WHUUNGH; WHATEVER HE SHOT ME WITH... MUST HAVE TRIGGERED ALL THE SUIT'S EXPLOSIVE BOLTS AT ONCE.
THANK GOD FOR SHAPED CHARGES!
NO-NO-NO-NO!
IT'S INSANE! CAN NOTHING KILL HIM?!
FEEL LIKE WRUNG-OUT LAUNDRY, BUT--
--CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY... NOT AFTER ALL THIS!
EEEYAHH! NO!!
FUH-ROOM!
HOLEE--!
THE PORTAL WON'T SEAL WITH YOU IN IT!
GET OUT! GET OUT!! GET OUT!!!
WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP


YAAAHH!
GOT TO HOLD ON!
BUT... THE WIND STREAM...
...TOO GREAT.
RELAX! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT YOU!
S-STARMAN?
HURRY, WE HAVE TO GO AFTER KILL-GRAVE!
NO WAY! IF I TRIED TO CATCH HIM, THE ACCELERATION WOULD KILL YOU! COME ON...
"... LET'S GET YOU BACK ON SOLID GROUND."
SUPERMAN, WHAT HAPPENED?
WE HEARD THE EXPLOSIONS! WHO--?
UH, HELLO. I'M STARMAN...
IF NOT FOR ME, STARMAN COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM.
... AND I'M AFRAID THAT KILLGRAVE ESCAPED.
DON'T TORTURE YOURSELF! WE'LL CATCH HIM EVENTUALLY.
SURE. OR SOMEONE ELSE WILL.
YES... SOME-ONE ELSE.
WHATEVER YOU DO-- DON'T MISS THE FABULOUS 50TH ISSUE OF...
SUPERMAN
ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS! IT'S COMICS HISTORY IN THE MAKING!!

I WANT *IN* TO SEE THE *BIG MAN, NOW!*

YOU *KNOW* WHO I *AM*, AND THE KIND OF *DIRT* I CAN KICK UP IF I DON'T GET MY *WAY!*

I GUESS THAT'S *IT*, THEN-- WE'D *BETTER* LET HIM SEE MR. LUTHOR!

OH, HECK, YES.

LEXCORP

OR ELSE HE'LL WRITE ONE OF THOSE *NASTY* COLUMNS ABOUT US IN THE *PAPER!*

G'WAN, GET OUTTA HERE, *REPORTER!* NOBODY *READS* NEWSPAPERS ANYMORE!

YOU WANTA SEE LUTHOR, YOU GOTTA *MAKE AN APPOINTMENT* WITH HIS SECRETARY!

AND HEY...

DON'T FORGET *THESE!*

THAT'S THE *SECOND* TIME I'VE BEEN THROWN OUT LIKE THAT--*EH?*

DOCTOR KELLEY?

SHE'S LUTHOR'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN.

SHE SURE DOESN'T NEED AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM...

I DIDN'T *EITHER*, AS LONG AS I COULD *FLY* UP TO THE NINETY-FIFTH FLOOR...

...BUT THAT WAS *BEFORE* LUTHOR FIGURED OUT A WAY TO STEAL MY POWERS FROM ME!

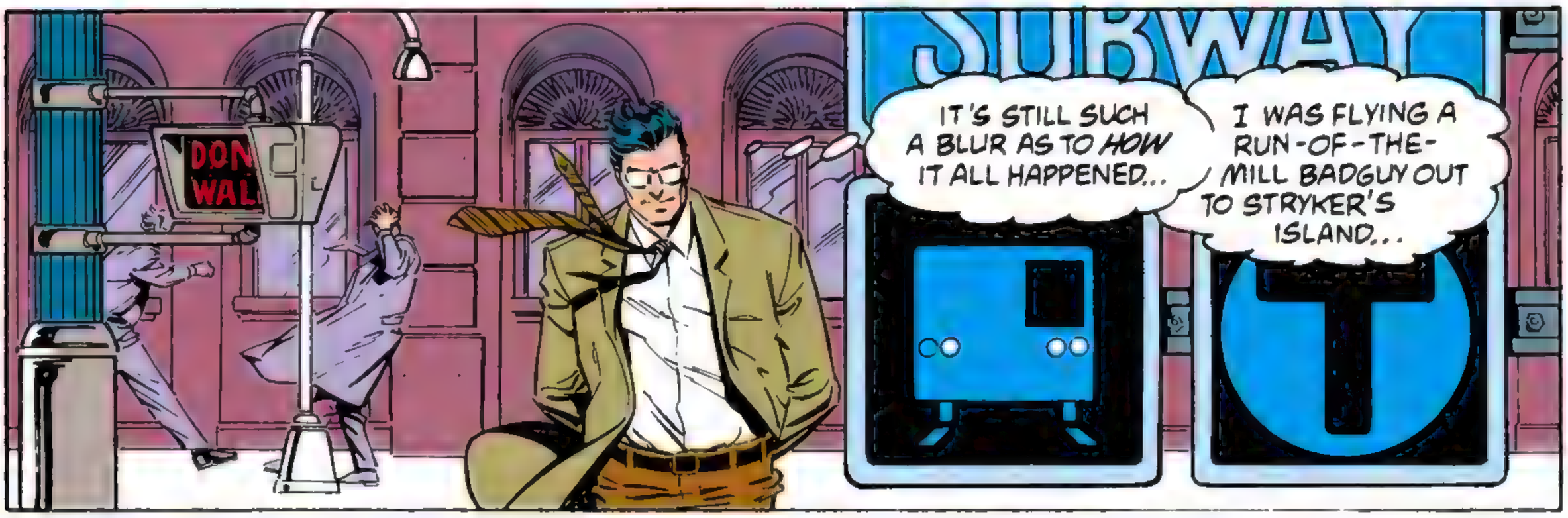
HOT DOGS

The HUMAN FACTOR

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

Story By Jerry Ordway
Art by Dan Jurgens, Brett Breeding, Kerry Gammill, Dennis Janke, Curt Swan, John Byrne, and Jerry Ordway
Colors by Glenn Whitmore Letters by John Costanza
Editing by Mike Carlin
(For a more detailed breakdown of *who* actually drew *what*, see the letters page.)


SUBWAY
IT'S STILL SUCH A BLUR AS TO *HOW* IT ALL HAPPENED...
I WAS FLYING A RUN-OF-THE-MILL BADGUY OUT TO STRYKER'S ISLAND...
"WHEN SUDDENLY THESE WEIRD CRIMSON BANDS OF LIGHT PASSED THROUGH ME, ROBBING ME OF MY POWERS!
"ONE MINUTE I'M IN THE HARBOR, THRASHING AROUND, AND THE NEXT, I'M IN LEX'S OFFICE -- DRIPPING WET!
"THERE HE PROCEEDED TO BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF ME WITH SOMETHING HE CALLED RED KRYPTONITE!
"IMPERSONATING ME, STARMAN LATER MANAGED TO GRAB THE HUNK OF ROCK THAT LUTHOR SAID WAS KEY TO MY POWER LOSS."
PROFESSOR HAMILTON STUDIED IT AND FOUND *NO* SIMILARITIES TO ACTUAL KRYPTONITE...
ALL OF WHICH STILL LEAVES ME STUCK USING THE SUBWAY.
E
VICE Lords

NOW I'M JUST LIKE THE REST OF THESE PEOPLE--EARTH-BOUND, DEPENDENT ON TRAINS, PLANES AND CARS.

;SIGH=! IT TAKES SO LONG TO GET FROM PLACE TO PLACE--SO MUCH LIFE WASTED SHUTTLING FROM PLACE TO PLACE...

'THOUGH I SUPPOSE LONG RIDES GIVE YOUNG LOVERS THAT PRECIOUS EXTRA TIME TO BE TOGETHER...

I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT'S BEEN GOING RIGHT FOR *ME* LATELY--MY RELATIONSHIP WITH *LOIS*.

THE THOUGHT OF THE TWO OF US, SHARING OUR LIVES TOGETHER IS--

WHOA!

THE CAR'S STOPPED!

WHAT IS IT?

PROBABLY A POWER OUTAGE...

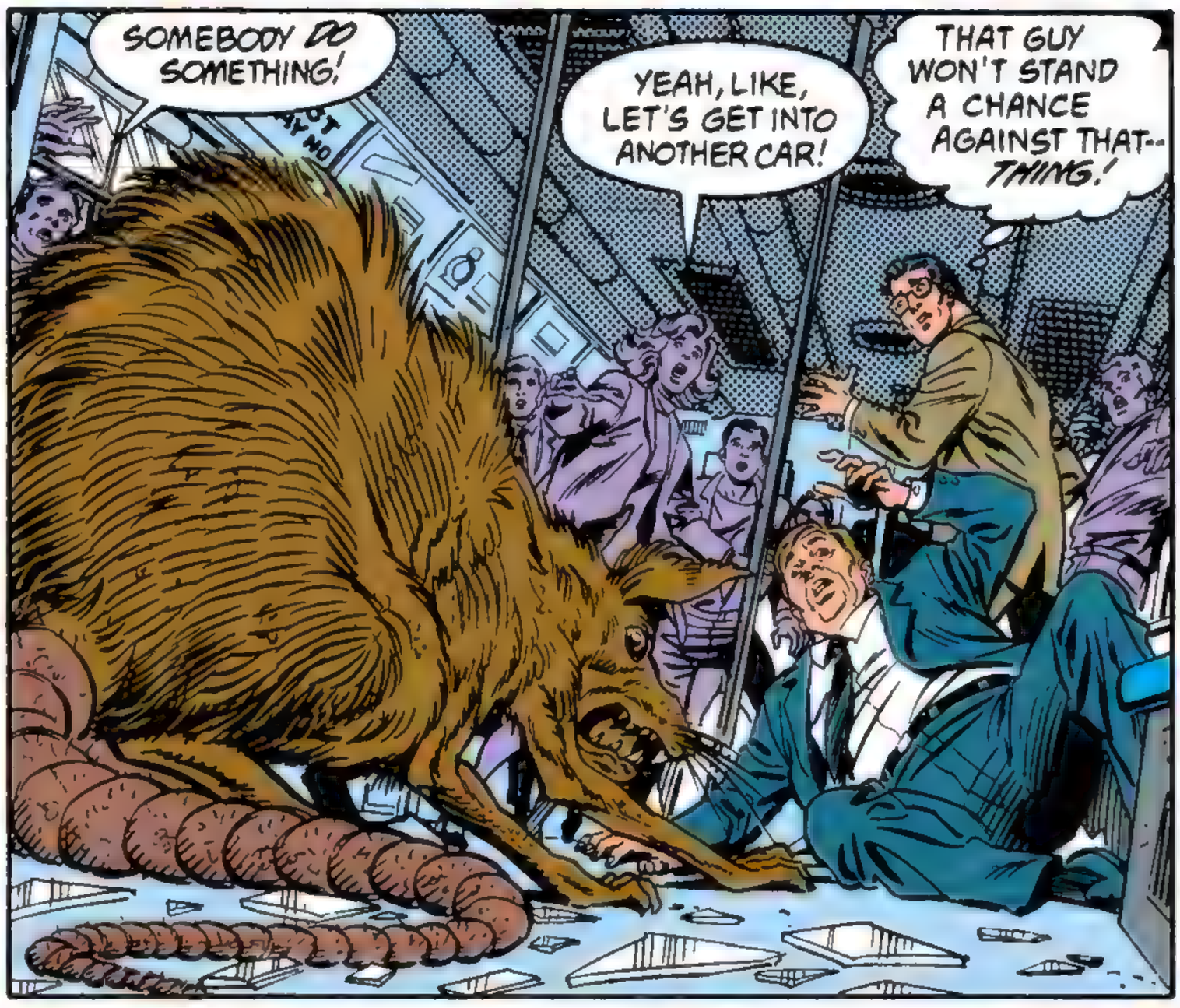
KERASH

EEEEEEEEK

I'M AS BLIND AS EVERYONE ELSE, WITHOUT MY SUPER-VISION!

SOMETHING JUST BRUSHED AGAINST MY LEG.
I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP!
EYAHHHH!

STAY CALM--THE POWER'S BACK.
OMIGOD! MY MOTHER TOLD ME NOT TO MOVE TO THE BIG CITY..


SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
YEAH, LIKE, LET'S GET INTO ANOTHER CAR!
THAT GUY WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT-- THING!

MAYBE I CAN DRAW ITS ATTENTION AWAY FROM THAT FALLEN MAN.

OKAY... THAT WORKED WELL! NOW HE'S AFTER ME!
ULP! BRACE YOURSELF, CLARK--

--THIS IS REALLY GOING TO HUR-- HUH?

CLANG!

CALM DOWN, FOLKS, THE CAVALRY'S HERE!

STAND CLEAR, MISTER!

THE GUARDIAN?

GOT HIM TRANQUILIZED?

DONE.

671

PLEASE PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION TO THE PLATFORM.

I'D BET THOSE GUYS ARE FROM THE *PROJECT*.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER TRAIN IN A FEW MINUTES, BUT ANYONE SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION SHOULD COME FORTH NOW...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE SOMEONE FILLING THE VOID IN SUPERMAN'S ABSENCE.

76

...AND ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

AFTER THAT, I NEED SOME FRESH AIR...

ST.

...'THOUGH I DON'T HONESTLY EXPECT TO FIND IT IN A --

TAXI!!

WHERE YOU HEADED, PAL?

CROWN CAB

DISCOUN

DRINK LOTS

344 CLINTON AVENUE

SOUNDS DO-ABLE.

WAIT! THERE'S A *MUGGING* -- OH, NEVER MIND...

YEAH, *STREET CRIME'S* UP, ALL RIGHT.

THANK GOD GANGBUSTER WAS ON TOP OF *THAT* ONE!

WORD *IS* THAT SUPERMAN'S *LOST* HIS *POWERS!*

A CABBIE FRIEND OF MINE RESCUED THE BIG GUY FROM A *CROWD* IN FRONT OF LEXCORP PLAZA THE OTHER DAY.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE *TOLD* ME... 'THOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE *EVERYTHING* I HEAR, 'CAUSE HE ALSO SAID HE GAVE THE MAN A *FREE* LIFT.

HERE WE ARE, PAL. THAT'LL BE *SEVEN* BUCKS!

SEVEN? THAT RIDE'S NEVER BEEN MORE THAN SIX-FIFTY!

34-4 CLINTON

34-4 CLINT

WHAT CAN I SAY, JUNIOR? PRICES GO UP!

MR. KENT!

'BEEN SEEING A LOT OF YOU LATELY.

OH, YOU KNOW ME -- BUSYBUSY BUSY.

HARD NOT TO NOTICE ME NOW, SINCE I'M USING THE FRONT DOOR TO COME AND GO NOW, INSTEAD OF THE WINDOW!

AT LEAST I HAVE A TOPIC FOR MY NEXT COLUMN, NOW. --RATS IN THE SUBWAY!

LUCKY FOR ME THAT EVEN BY HUMAN STANDARDS, I'M STILL A FAST TYPIST!

WELL WITH THAT DONE, I'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF THIS REEK!

REALLY SWEAT UP A STORM DURING THAT SUBWAY INCIDENT!

I NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS BEFORE WITH MY SUPER-EFFICIENT SYSTEM... BUT NOW I--

DRAT! PHONE'S RINGING!

HELLO? OH, HI, MA!

DOING? I WAS IN THE SHOWER. YEAH, SEEMS LIKE IT. HEY, YOU MUST HAVE ESP...

NOT E-S-P-- IT'S C-N-N! PA AND I SAW COVERAGE OF THAT PRISON BREAK, THERE IN METROPOLIS...

...AND WE NOTICED YOU WEREN'T QUITE--YOURSELF.

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MA. I'M DEALING WITH IT. *REALLY.*

JUST BE *CAREFUL*, CLARK! ON A MORE PLEASANT FRONT, WHAT'D YOU THINK OF THE *SURPRISE* I LEFT IN YOUR SUITCASE?

WHAT SURPRISE?

DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T *UN-PACKED* FROM YOUR LAST VISIT?!

MA, LET ME SWITCH TO THE CORDLESS PHONE.

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU HAVEN'T UNPACKED YET!

MAAA, I'VE REALLY BEEN BUSY. YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ME *COOKIES* AGAIN?

NO COOKIES... WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY COOKIES?

OH, NEVER MIND. JUST YOU LOOK IN YOUR SHAVING KIT!

WHAT'S *THIS?*

SHAVING CREAM

IT'S A RING, SILLY! IT'S BEEN IN THE CLARK FAMILY A LONG TIME, AND SINCE YOU'RE OUR ONLY CHILD, IT'S YOURS NOW...

...TO GIVE TO WHOMEVER YOU DECIDE TO *MARRY!*

YOU *SURE* YOU DON'T HAVE *ESP*, MA?

NO, SON, IT WAS THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT THAT GIRL, LOIS LANE, WHEN YOU WERE BOTH VISITING US.

I GUESS I LIKE HER, ALL RIGHT.

...NEVER COULD HIDE MY FEELINGS FROM YOU.

CLARK, PROMISE ME THAT IF YOU DO GIVE HER THIS RING, YOU'LL DO IT WITH A CLEAR HEAD.

DON'T LET YOUR CURRENT SITUATION COLOR THE DECISION.

MA, I'M NOT ABOUT TO *RUSH* INTO ANY-THING BEFORE I'VE THOUGHT IT THROUGH...

I'VE GOT TO RUN, OKAY? SO SAY "HI" TO PA FOR ME...

I HAVE TO SCOOT, TOO, 'CAUSE PA'LL BE HOME SOON, AND HE TOLD ME NOT TO MEDDLE!

LOVE YOU, SON.

LOVE YOU TOO, MA-- AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT MEDDLING. 'BYE.

GOOD OL' MA. ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME!

ALL RIGHT... HAVE TO COPY MY COLUMN ONTO A DISC, AND DROP IT OFF AT THE 'PLANET.

call Donna 182 e34th

I THINK I'LL WALK THE FEW BLOCKS TO THE PAPER-- MAYBE I'LL GET AN IDEA FOR HOW BEST TO CONFRONT LUTHOR!

I NEED TO SPEAK FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIM, IF I EVER HOPE TO GET SOME CLUE AS TO *HOW* HE DID THIS TO ME!

I DO *STILL* HAVE MY REPORTERS' SKILLS, AT LEAST!

AND I'VE SQUEEZED MY SHARE OF *SECRETS* OUT OF POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN IN MY TIME!

HEY, HOW'S IT GOING TODAY, DUKE?

GREAT, MR. K-- NOT SO WINDY THESE PAST FEW DAYS

HMMM, CRIME *IS* UP. I'D HOPED--EH?

OH, *GREAT*. CAT GRANT IS DOING A *TV* INTERVIEW WITH GANGBUSTER.

BETTER NOT LET HER SEE ME.

WE'VE HEARD SEVERAL RUMORS THAT SOMETHING'S *WRONG* WITH SUPERMAN. DID HE ASK *YOU* TO FILL IN FOR HIM?

WELL, *UH*, MISS GRANT, I'M NO EXPERT ON SUPERMAN--I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THAT'S ALL.

JOSE'S NO *GLORY*-HOUND, THAT'S FOR SURE.

IN ALL MY DEALINGS WITH HIM I'VE SENSED THAT HE *REALLY DOES CARE* ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE!

I ONLY HOPE HE NEVER EXPECTS TO GET A MEDAL FOR HIS GOOD DEEDS!

...PEOPLE SOMETIMES HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF TAKING THEIR HEROES FOR GRANTED.

HEY, JIM! HEADING OUT ON AN ASSIGNMENT?

"HEY" BACK, MR. KENT! I'M HEADING OFF TO VISIT MY MOM.

HOW IS SHE?

DOC BROWN AT THE PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC SAID SHE'S REALLY MAKING PROGRESS!

GOT TO CRUISE, MR. KENT.

IS LOIS UP IN THE CITY ROOM?

YEAH, SHE IS, MR. KENT.

JIM? CALL ME CLARK, OKAY?

SURE THING MR.--UH, CLARK.

SAY, DID YOU READ ABOUT THAT JAIL BREAK AT STRYKER'S?

A WHOLE BUNCH OF HEROES HAD TO HELP SUPERMAN STOP IT.

YOU KNOW WHY DAT IS? HE AIN'T SUPER NO MORE! USED UP ALL HIS POWERS OR SOMETHING!

AHH, THOSE OTHER HEROES DID THE JOB, THOUGH!

GANGBUSTER, THE GUARDIAN AND STARMAN *ALL* DID MORE THAN THEIR SHARE TO HELP OUT.

LY PLANE EDITORIAL

I WAS THE ONE HOLDING THEM BACK!

GREETINGS ALL. WHAT'S NEWS?

CLARK! AT LAST A *CHEERFUL* FACE!

YOU WANT *SAD*, I'VE GOT THAT *TOO*.

NO THANKS.

DAILY CITY

CITY ROOM'S RATHER *GLOOMY*, ALICE. HOW'S THE CHIEF TODAY?

SEEING AS HOW I'M LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS PERRY AND HIS WIFE, I'D HAVE TO SAY, "*NOT GOOD -- ON EITHER FRONT.*"

NO REPORTER TELLS *ME* WHAT TO PUT IN THIS PAPER, LOIS!

DAILY

PERRY WHITE MANAGING EDITOR

WE'VE *ALL* HAD OUR PERSONAL VENDETTAS AGAINST LEXCORP, BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM CLOUD OUR JUDGMENT!

THANK YOU FOR AIRING THIS TO THE *ENTIRE* STAFF, PERRY!

LOOK, I BLEW MY STACK. I'M SORRY!

IT'S NO SECRET THAT I'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY, BUT I'M *STILL* RIGHT ABOUT THIS...

YOU ARE *NOT* THE *ONLY* ONE TO SUFFER FAMILY TRAGEDY, PERRY!

AND IT HAS NOT AFFECTED THE *WAY* I RUN THIS NEWSPAPER!

SO, TO THE REST OF YOU I SAY:

GET *BACK* TO *WORK*!

ALICE, COULD YOU PLEASE DROP THIS DISC OFF WITH MARY POWERS, THE FEATURES EDITOR?

SURE.

LOIS... LOIS!

SO DISTRAUGHT... SHE RAN RIGHT PAST ME!

HOLD THAT ELEVATOR, PLEASE.

THE DAILY PLANET IS GOOD NEWS

HI, LOIS. HOW ABOUT LUNCH DOWNSTAIRS AT DOOLEY'S?

OH, CLARK!

HAVEN'T GOT MUCH APPETITE, BUT I COULD USE SOME COMPANY.

ANY CHANGE IN YOUR MOM'S CONDITION?

SHE'S STABLE, BUT THE DOCTORS ARE STILL GOING OVER HER TOXI-COLOGY LAB RESULTS.

KENT, LANE-- GRAB A TABLE ANY-WHERE.

THE STORY THAT PERRY BOUNCED-- IT DETAILED HOW MY MOTHER BECAME ILL WHILE WORKING AT A LEXCORP CHEMICAL PLANT...

...AND HOW LEX WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED! HOW CAN THAT BE LIBELOUS?

ORDER?

MENU

JUST A DIET "SODER", KEVIN.

TUNA MELT--AND A CLUB SODA.

Great Shock

CLARK, I'VE TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE, ABOUT MOM, AND YOU'VE BEEN A DEAR-- I'M SORRY TO BRING YOU DOWN WITH IT...

DON'T BE SILLY. I'M HERE FOR YOU, LOIS...

I KNOW YOU ARE, SWEETIE, AND I'M SURE MOM WILL GET WELL.

WATCHA GOT THERE?

WELL, IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN IN MY FAMILY A LONG TIME.

MY MOTHER SLIPPED IT INTO MY LUGGAGE WHEN YOU AND I LEFT SMALLVILLE.

SHE TOLD ME SHE DID IT BECAUSE OF THE *WAY* YOU AND I *LOOKED* AT EACH OTHER DURING OUR VISIT...

CLARK! THAT'S AN *ENGAGEMENT* RING!

I *KNOW*. I'VE THOUGHT THIS OVER FOR A *LONG* TIME, LOIS...

WOULD YOU-- I MEAN, *WILL* YOU BE MY--

"*WIFE*"?

I CAN'T DENY THAT I'VE PONDERED WHAT *THAT* WOULD BE LIKE...

THIS IS REALLY *SWEET*.

I'M SORRY, THAT SOUNDED CONDESCENDING, DIDN'T IT?

WITH *ALL* THAT'S GOING ON, GIVE ME TIME TO SORT IT ALL OUT.

THAT SOUNDS FAIR.

:*ahem*:

TUNA FISH FOR THE GENT...

...TELEPHONE FOR THE LADY.

THE *HOSPITAL*?

NO. LEX LUTHOR.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR A PRACTICAL JOKE, DOOLEY!

LISTEN, I JUST ANSWER THE PHONE, FOLKS!

LOOK, WHOEVER THIS REALLY IS, I AM NOT AMUSED.

I ASSURE YOU IT IS ME. THE SAME MAN WHO DUTIFULLY SUPPLIED MONTHLY DOSES OF SERUM FOR YOUR ILL MOTHER...

THAT SAID, I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS YOUR AUTHORSHIP OF MY OFFICIAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

THREE POINTS-- FIRST, MY MOTHER IS *STILL* SICK, NO THANKS TO YOUR USELESS SERUM...

...SECOND, I'M NOT KNOWN FOR WRITING *FICTION*...

...THIRD, WORD IS YOUR *LAST* BIOGRAPHER WOUND UP *DEAD*!

LET ME TALK TO HIM...

CLARK, WHAT ARE YOU...?

LUTHOR? THIS IS CLARK KENT-- DON'T HANG UP!

YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS. MAKE YOUR POINT, MISTER KENT.

TWO WORDS-- "RED KRYPTONITE."

I HAVE IT, AND YOU *WANT* IT...

=SIGH= YOU HAVE IT? =SIGH= VERY WELL. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

I WANT A *STORY*-- A *TRUE* STORY.

HELLO?

ARE YOU STILL--

I'M STILL HERE, KENT. BRING THE ROCK TO ME AT LEXCORP TOWER IN TWENTY MINUTES...

MY TIME IS AT A PREMIUM. =CLICK=

WHAT WAS *THAT* ABOUT *RED* KRYPTONITE?

IT'S A LONG STORY, LOIS-- BUT NOT A *NEWS* STORY...

I'M DOING THIS TO HELP OUT SUPERMAN.

AT LEAST BE CAREFUL, WILL YOU...

"...YOU'RE WALKING RIGHT INTO THE LION'S DEN."

"MR. KENT IS HERE, MR. LUTHOR."

"SEND HIM IN."

HELLO, LEX.

HAND OVER THE ROCK, KENT, AND I *WON'T* PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOU AND THAT YOUNGSTER STARMAN.

I *KNOW* IT WAS *HE* WHO TOOK MY RED KRYPTONITE AND *YOU* ARE IN POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

PAY MY PRICE.

TELL ME A *STORY*, LUTHOR. *OFF* THE RECORD.

WHY DOES ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN *FEAR* SUPERMAN *SO* MUCH...

I *FEAR* NO *MAN!* I MERELY WISH THE WORLD TO *KNOW* WHAT A *PHONY* HE IS...

...THAT HIS "*MOTHER THERESA*" ACT IS A *SHAM!*

THE *PEOPLE* NEED HIM, AND YOU TOOK HIM AWAY, LEX.

IF LEXCORP IS AS SQUEAKY-CLEAN AS YOUR FLACKS CLAIM, YOU'D HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR HIM.

THERE'S THAT WORD AGAIN-- "*FEAR.*" ARE YOU TRYING TO *PROVOKE* ME, KENT? YOU AND SUPERMAN ARE FRIENDS...

...SO I'LL *FORGIVE* YOUR BIAS, BUT TELL ME-- HAS YOUR FRIEND HELPED ANY OLD LADIES ACROSS THE STREET LATELY?

YOU *KNOW* HE HASN'T, BECAUSE THIS HUNK OF ROCK ROBBED METROPOLIS OF ITS CHAMPION!

IS *THAT* HOW YOU WISH TO BE REMEMBERED?

OFF THE RECORD, KENT, THE KRYPTONITE WHICH *SHOULD* HAVE POISONED THAT DO-GOODER, IS INSTEAD *KILLING ME!*

AND SO WITH A *DEATH-BED* GRASP, YOU'RE TAKING YOUR ENEMY, SUPERMAN, AS WELL...

...WITH THIS *CREATION* OF YOURS?!

AS A CONNIVING BILLIONAIRE WHO LET HIS PARANOIA AND JEALOUSY OF SUPERMAN *CONSUME* HIM?

"MY CREATION"? ACHHH! IF YOU KNEW THE IRONY!

BUT IT'S WORTH IT TO SEE THE MAN OF STEEL POWER-LESS!

WHAT IRONY? TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT-- TOOK SUPERMAN'S POWER AWAY-- ON THE RECORD!

IF YOU ARE DYING, ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET IT RIGHT FOR THE :UGH: HISTORY BOOKS!

HE SPECIFICALLY SAID I COULDN'T TELL SUPERMAN--

BZZZZZzz

YES, MR. L?

--BUUUT... IF I TOLD YOU, AND YOU TOLD HIM, THAT WOULDN'T VIOLATE THE RULE.

:AHAGH:--! RULE?

TAKE HIM OUTSIDE!... AND, MR. KENT...?

THIS WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE IMP FROM THE FIFTH DIMENSION...

"...MISTER MXYZPTLK."

WOTTA REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT! I BIN GLOPPED!

THIS IS THE *BEST* VACATION I'VE EVER *HAD*--

OH, DARN!

HOLD *EVERYTHING!*

HERE I AM, HAVING FUN WITH MY FANTASTIC NEW FRIENDS...

POP!

...AND MY OLD EX-FRIEND, THAT TUB OF LARD LEX LUTHOR, BREAKS THE RULE AND *BLABS!*

:*SIGH*: THESE ARE THE TIMES WHICH *TRY* AN *IMP'S* SOUL!

MXYZPTLK?

LEXCORP

YOU DON'T *LEARN*, DO YOU, REPORTER?

LEXCORP

HEY! I CAN'T BUDGE HIM!

WHOA... MY POWERS...? COURSING THROUGH ME?

WONDER IF MY *HEAT VISION'S* BACK?

YUP!

YEEOW! MY FEET!

GEEZ, WHERE'D HE DISAPPEAR TO?

KCORP

HE MUST'VE HEADED FOR THE ALLEY!

YAAOOOOOO!

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

Y'GET USED TO THESE WINDS, LIVING AROUND HERE!

CLINT

CARELESS OF ME TO JUST DISAPPEAR ON THOSE GUARDS, BUT THE SECOND I FELT MY POWERS RETURN...

...I *HAD* TO HIT THE SKIES!

MR. *MXYZPTLK'S* PARTICIPATION IN THIS SCENARIO EXPLAINS A LOT!

NOTHING SHORT OF *HIS* MAGIC COULD'VE TRANSFORMED MY ALIEN PHYSIOLOGY TO THAT OF A *HUMAN.*

BEFORE I BARGE *BACK* INTO LEXCORP TOWER, I'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT WITH MY RESTORED X-RAY VISION AND SUPER-HEARING.

THE RED K HAS *MXY'S* FACE ON *IT!* WEIRD!

YOU BIG DOOFUS! I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL!

YOU LIED ABOUT THE RULES, YOU LITTLE MONSTER! I DIDN'T TELL SUPERMAN! I TOLD CLARK KENT!

I LIED?? WHO IS THIS CLARK KENT?

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE? WHY ARE YOU A *ROCK?*

SUPEY, M'MAN! WELL, YA SEE, IT'S LIKE THIS:

I HAD A BACKLOG OF MAYHEM IN ANOTHER DIMENSION--

--SO I THOUGHT I COULD *TWEAK* YOU VIA THIS REMOTE CONTROL ROCK!

WHY, YOU LITTLE--

AWWW, SHADDAP, BALDY!

SWACK

I'D HAVE LOVED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS CLARKENT, BUT LEXY CALLED ME A LIAR, AND I WANT YOU TO *PUNCH* HIM OUT FOR ME!

DO IT, AND I'LL LEAVE FOR THE CUSTOMARY NINETY DAYS.

I WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO BLACKMAIL.

JUST LEAVE!

AFTER ALL THE NASTY THINGS HE SAID ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A REAL STIFF WHEN IT COMES TO FUN!

WELL, I MADE THE RULE, AND I'M SO DESPERATE TO GET BACK TO THAT OTHER, FUN, WORLD, THAT I'M GOING TO HELP OLD SUPEY!

USING THIS BIT OF :UGH: SKIN I SCRAPED OFF OF OLD CHROME DOME...

FLOOP!

VOILÀ! INSTANT BODY COMING RIGHT UP!

AND WHAT A BODY IT IS!

GOOD OLD LEXY-- HE EVEN HAS FAT GENES!

OH, SUUUUPEEYYYY...

...I'M TALKIN' TO YOU, PLAYMATE!

I'D HOPED HE WOULD LEAVE ON HIS *OWN* IF I DIDN'T PLAY ALO--

OH *NO!*

IT'S BLUBBERING TIME!

SWAK

TISH

BOOOSH

WHAT'S...

...THAT...

BOOOSH

...NOISE?

BOOOSH

MAYBE SUPEY WON'T FIGHT 'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE AN EMBLEM!

I GUESS ALL THE GOOD SUPER-VILLAINS HAVE THEM!

HEY, LOOK AT ME -- I'M GROSS-MAN! GET IT?

COME AND GET ME, SUPES!

DO I HAVE TO THREATEN CHILDREN TO DRAW YOU OUT?

NO.

C'MON, HIT ME! PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY!

MY EXPERIENCE WITH THIS MANIAC DICTATES THAT I DO ANYTHING *BUT* WHAT HE TELLS ME TO DO, SO...

FWOOSH

HEY! STOP THAT-- IT TICKLES!

AS BIG AS HE IS, HE'LL DO LESS DAMAGE IN THE HARBOR.

SPAVOOM

NO FAIR, NO FAIR-- ROCKS CAN'T SWIM! BESIDES, I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!

THEN LEAVE!

YOU KNOW ME AND RULES! HIT ME, YOU FOOL!

I THOUGHT THE RULE WAS TO HIT LEX LUTHOR, AND YOU'D LEAVE?

OH WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT!

DON'T EXPECT THIS MUCH HELP NEXT TIME!

WHUBUB!

THIS BLOB WAS CREATED FROM A BIT OF THAT OTHER BLOB, LUTHOR!

SO I *DID* KIND OF PUNCH OUT LEX, AFTER ALL!

BINGO, BRAINIAC! TA-TA!

OKAY... NOW THAT THAT'S DONE... BACK TO MY *FOUR* NEW FRIENDS.

Y'KNOW, FOR A SECOND THERE I SENSED THAT SUPER-DUPE WAS ACTUALLY GETTING *BORED* WITH ME!

WHY, *NEXT* TIME I--

OOPS! ALMOST FORGOT...

SOMETIMES IT'S JUST *IMPOSSIBLE* TO REMEMBER WHAT I LOOK LIKE FROM WORLD TO WORLD!

POP!

OKAY-- I'M *BACK!*

YOU CAN ALL *MOVE* AGAIN! I--

WAIT! DON'T GO AWAY!

LET'S GO, *GANG!* TURN AND WALK AWAY FROM HIM...

...IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

POST NO BILLS

ONE WALLOP! THAT'S *ALL* I'D ASK!

"WHAT A BUNCH OF DEAD-HEADS!

"AND I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE A LOT OF FUN!

"PHOOEY!"

POP!

"IT WORKED-- HE'S GONE!"

"...HE WAS BESTED BY THE ONE THING HE COULDN'T FIGHT-- SHEER BOREDOM."

I SEE THAT THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE FROM MXYZPTLK'S VISIT HAS ALL MAGICALLY BEEN UNDONE...

THE GALAXY BUILDING LOOKS AS GOOD AS NEW, AND ALL THE WINDOWS IN THE LEXCORP BUILDINGS ARE INTACT!

MXYZPTLK *REALLY* MUST'VE WANTED OUT, FOR HIM TO HELP LIKE THAT! IF I'M LUCKY, MAYBE HE *WON'T* COME BACK!

SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR WORKING WITH LUTHOR!

HMMM, DOCTOR KELLY IS TENDING TO LEX NOW.

SORRY ABOUT THE WINDOW.

HE'S COMING AROUND--YOU'D BETTER GLOAT ELSEWHERE!

HE'S *DYING*, KELLEY. DEATH ISN'T SOME-THING I'D *EVER* GLOAT OVER.

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? YOU CAN DO *ALL* OF THESE *WONDERFUL* THINGS...

...YET YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO *WORK* FOR YOUR *POWERS*...

... THEY CAME TO YOU NATURALLY.

IT *DOESN'T* MATTER *WHAT* YOU DO WITH THOSE ABILITIES, BECAUSE NOT *EVERY-ONE* IS SO TRUSTING OF YOUR MOTIVES!

LEX DRAGGED *HIMSELF* UP THE LADDER, AND IT *DID* CHANGE HIM, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK FOR *HIM* TO BECOME A SUCCESS!

NOT EVERY-ONE TURNS *ENVY* INTO *HATE*.

AND DON'T THINK IT'S EASY *BEING* SUPERMAN, KELLEY. IT'S A STRUGGLE TO LIVE UP TO *EVERY-ONE'S* EXPECTATIONS!

IN ANY CASE, HE'S *LUCKY* TO HAVE *YOU*, DOCTOR, IN HIS TIME OF NEED.

LUCK HAS *NOTHING* TO DO WITH IT.

"SUPERMAN'S BACK, ALL RIGHT..."

...AND I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD OF IT.

SEE THESE HANDS OF MINE? THEY'RE LIKE *HAMBURGER*, FROM *CLOCKING* BADGUYS!

I DON'T *WANT* TO KNOW WHAT THIS CITY'D BE LIKE IF SUPERMAN WEREN'T AROUND!

I *DO* KNOW IT WOULD TAKE A LOT *MORE* THAN GANGBUSTER TO HOLD IT TOGETHER!

NO ONE WOULD *EXPECT* YOU TO, HON.

AFTER ALL, *EVEN* MIKE TYSON FIGHTS ONLY A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR, AND *THEN* ONLY FOR 40 *SECONDS*!

HONEY, YOU *ARE* A SIGHT! MAYBE *WE* NEED A LONG VACATION!

AND WHILE WE'RE AWAY...

"...WE CAN WORK ON YOUR TELEVISION PRESENCE!"

RUMORS OF SUPERMAN'S POWER LOSS WERE SHORT-LIVED, WHEN THIS AFTERNOON THE MAN OF STEEL ONCE AGAIN SAVED THE CITY...

STEVE LOMBARD

...FROM A MONSTER WHICH ONLOOKERS DESCRIBED AS LOOKING LIKE "THAT BIG MARSHMALLOW GUY FROM 'GHOSTBUSTERS'--ONLY PINK."

OOO-KAY, FOLKS! I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT "MOVIES ARE LIKE REAL LIFE WITH ALL THE BORING PARTS CUT OUT..."

WELL, THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN THIS FAIR CITY OF METROPOLIS KNOW THAT THERE ARE *RARELY* ANY *BORING* PARTS TO CUT OUT.

FOLKS HERE AT THE GALAXY BUILDING SAW THE PLACE TAKE A TREMENDOUS JOLT BY SUPERMAN...

...ALL TRACES OF WHICH DISAPPEARED WITH THE MONSTER'S DEFEAT. WEIRD!

"HEY, AFTER THIS WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR, WE'VE GOT A "900" NUMBER POLL...

"DO YOU BELIEVE THE RUMORS ABOUT BILLIONAIRE LEX LUTHOR'S HEALTH? 1-900-LEX-LIVE, OR 1-900-LEX-DE..."

CLIK.

VULTURES CIRCLING THE DYING MAN...

NO *HEIR* TO AN *EMPIRE.*

"MY ONLY SON, DEAD..."

... OUR SON JERRY...

PERRY, WE SHOULD TALK...

TALK TO ME-- DON'T WALK AWAY...

WHY ARE YOU DOING *THIS* TO US?

YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT JERRY.

I NEVER KNEW FOR CERTAIN THAT LEX *WAS* JERRY'S FATHER.

DO WE HAVE TO GO OVER ALL OF THIS AGAIN?

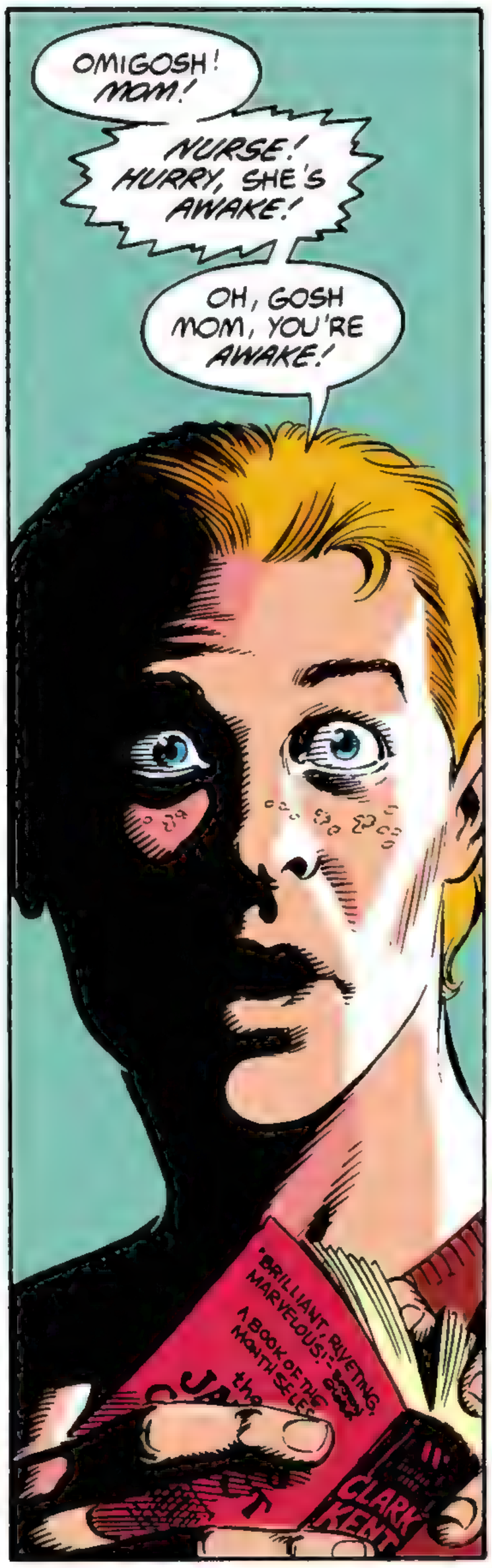
CLIK

JERRY WAS *OUR* SON-- WE RAISED HIM-- LOVED HIM--WATCHED HIM GROW UP...

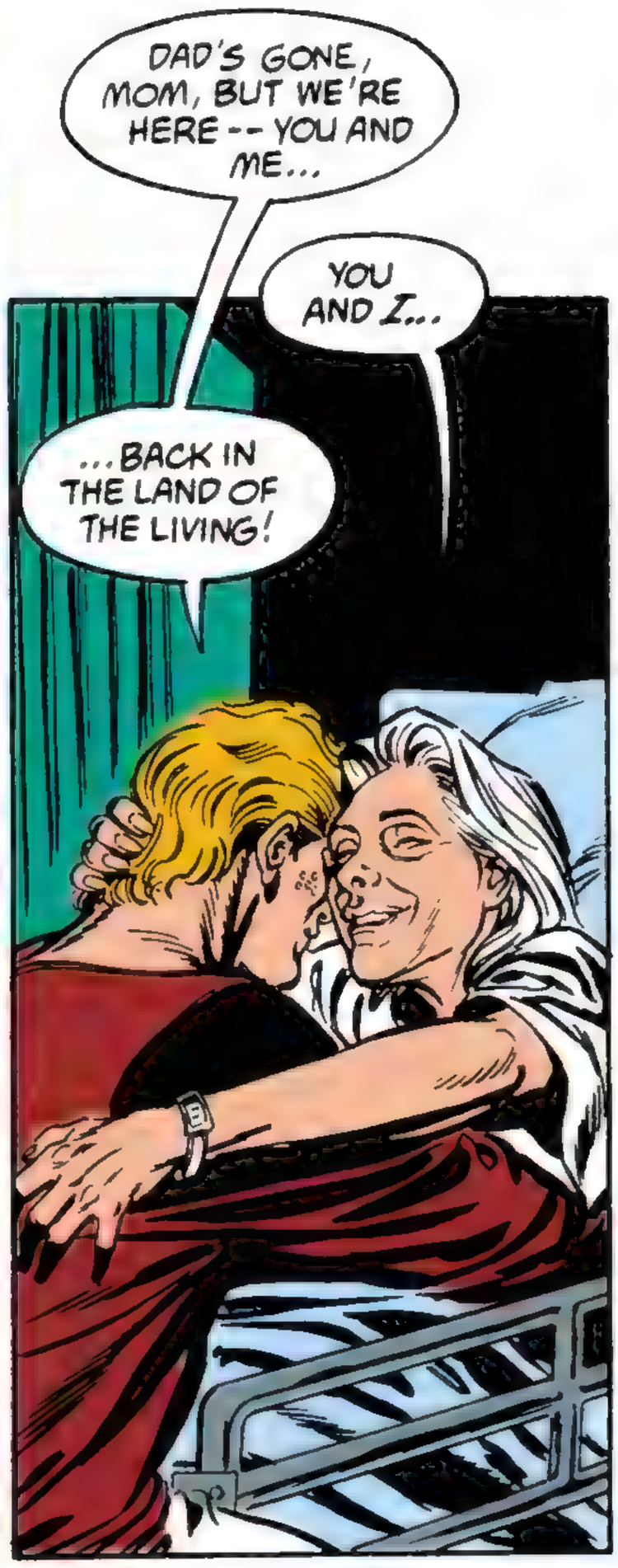
...WATCHED HIM *DIE*...

"WHERE IN GOD'S GOOD NAME *AM* I?"

WHAZAT?
JAKE?
JAKE, WHERE AM I?


OMIGOSH! MOM!
NURSE! HURRY, SHE'S AWAKE!
OH, GOSH MOM, YOU'RE AWAKE!
'BRILLIANT! RIVETING! MARVELOUS!'--
A BOOK OF THE MONTH SELECTION
CLARK KENT

JIMMY! JAKE--HE'S...
...DEAD...


DAD'S GONE, MOM, BUT WE'RE HERE -- YOU AND ME...
YOU AND I...
...BACK IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

SEEING YOU AND LUCY HERE WHEN SHE WOKE -- DID HER A WORLD OF GOOD...

TRO GENERAL

WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME -- GET SOME REST. SHE'LL SLEEP NOW FOR A WHILE, LOIS.

YEAH, SIS... CLARK'S BEEN WAITING IN THE LOBBY FOR YOU.

DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN OPINION OF THAT GUY EITHER WAY BEFORE, BUT THE WAY HE'S CONDUCTED HIMSELF THROUGH THIS...

WELL, HE'S PASSED MUSTER WITH SAM LANE.

THANK YOU, DADDY-- I LIKE HIM TOO. CALL ME IF MOM'S CONDITION CHANGES. 'BYE.

HEY, STRANGER...

G WARD

LOIS, HI. I HOPE YOU DON'T *MIND*, I WANTED TO CHECK IN ON YOUR MOM, BUT ONLY *FAMILY* IS ALLOWED AFTER HOURS.

SHE'S DOING BETTER, NOW. THANKS.

TIME

MY CAR IS IN THE LOT-- WANT A RIDE HOME?

TO EXIT Follow YELLOW Line

I TAKE THAT AS A "YES"?

YOU KNOW, MOM TALKED TO ME A LITTLE TONIGHT...

SHE REALLY HAS ALWAYS LIKED YOU, SO I TOLD HER ABOUT US...

ALL SHE KEPT SAYING WAS HOW YOU "HAD GOOD MANNERS, AND HAD COME FROM A GOOD HOME..."

PARKING GARAGE

STOP. I DIDN'T COME TO THE HOSPITAL TO PRESSURE YOU...

HOSPITAL PARKING LEVEL 6

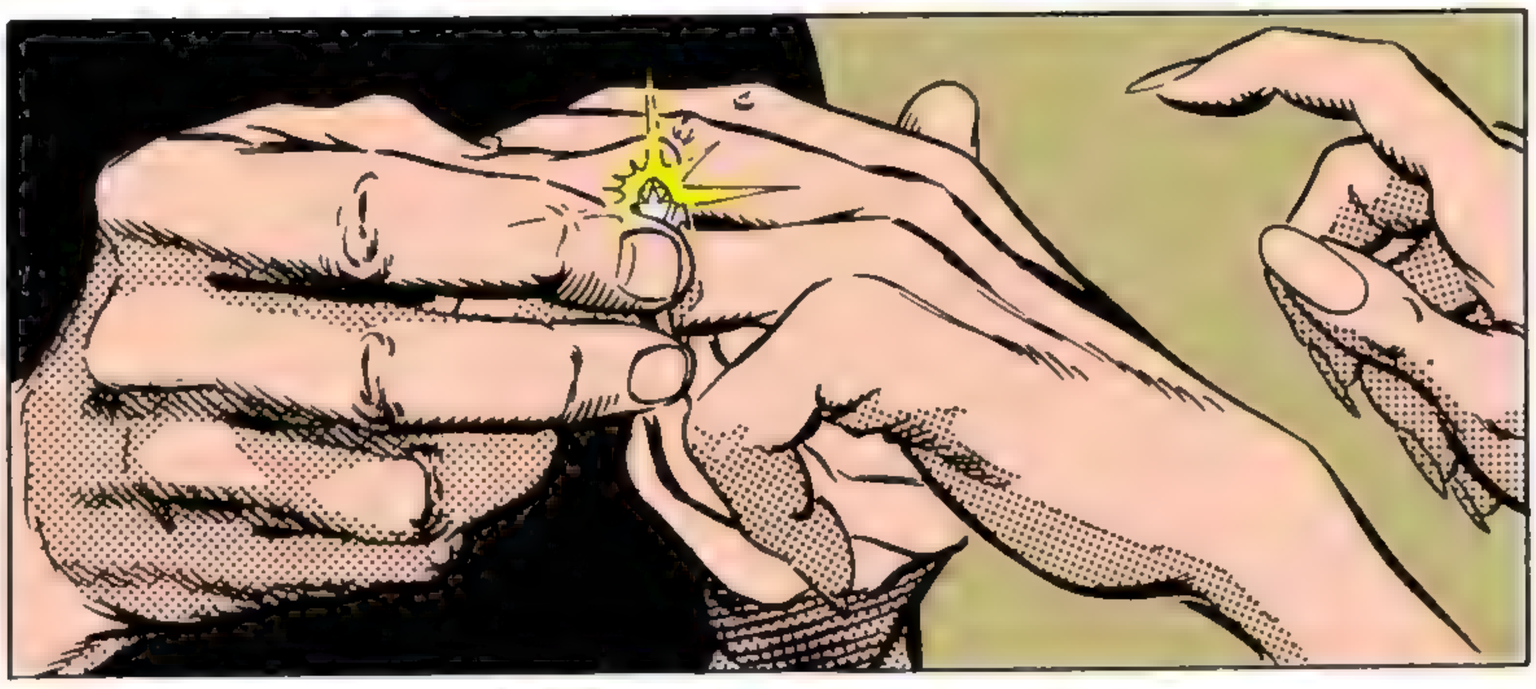
I KNOW, SWEETIE, I KNOW -- BUT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY...

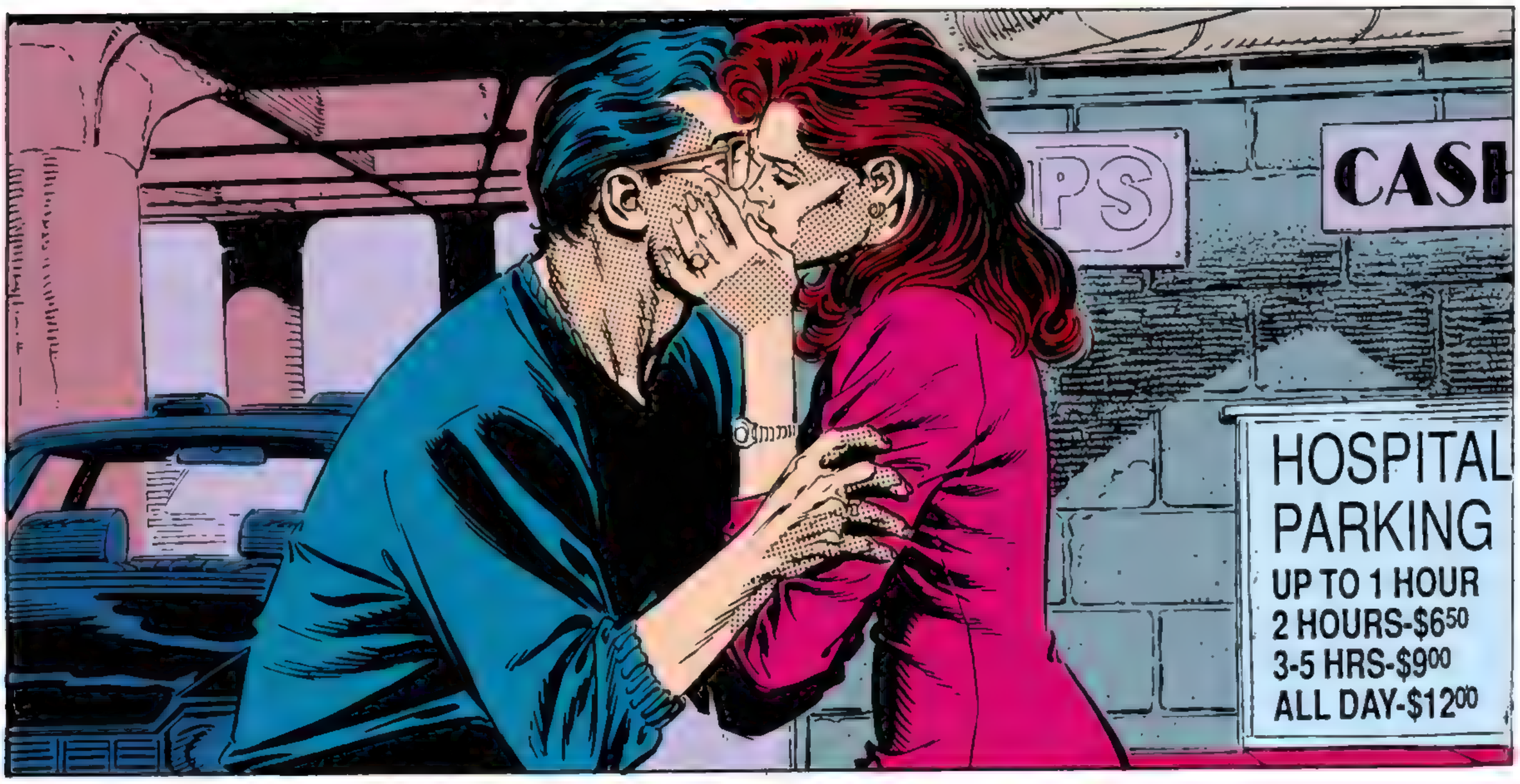
LOIS, I DON'T NEED AN ANSWER RIGHT NOW--

SHHH, CLARK. I'VE *ALREADY* DECIDED...

YES.

I *WANT* TO SHARE MY LIFE WITH YOU.





IT'S WORSE THAN I'D THOUGHT--

--STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON IS IN THE MIDST OF A RIOT-- THAT MUCH I KNEW--
--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A WAR ZONE!
GREAT SCOTT!
"--IT LOOKS AS THOUGH EVERY FOE I'VE EVER FOUGHT IS INVOLVED IN A FULL-SCALE PRISON BREAKOUT!"

SOME OF THESE VILLAINS HAVE NO BUSINESS BEING HERE--THEY MUST HAVE COME TO STRYKER'S ISLAND TO HELP FREE THE PRISONERS
WHAMM!
NOT ME FOR SUBTLETY
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
KROK!
WHUDD!
UNNGH.
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE TO STOP THEM ALL--BUT I'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO TRY!
TZAKKA!
WHA--?
PSI-PHON ATTACKING ME PHYSICALLY--
BUT THAT'S--

TAKE THIS, SUPERMAN!
I HAVE TO KEEP FOCUSED--STOP AS MANY AS I CAN AND PICK UP THE REST LATER
THIS OUGHT TO SLOW DOWN MOST OF THEM--
NOT SO FAST, SUPERMAN--
THOSE WITH REAL POWERS WILL SHRUG IT OFF, BUT AT LEAST A GOOD PORTION OF THEM WILL BE OUT FOR--
NO ONE.
KLAASH IS ONE OF LEX LUTHOR'S ROBOTS--WE FACED EACH OTHER IN THE PAST--BUT WHAT IS IT DOING HERE? WHY HAVE ALL MY FOES JOINED FORCES? IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE--

SUPERMAN--
SUPERMAN ARE YOU OKAY?
UNNGH--
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT WAS LIKE AN INVASION -- AN ARMY OF YOUR GREATEST FOES SHOWED UP AND TRIED TO BREAK OUT MORE OF YOUR FOES. A NUMBER OF THE PRISONERS ESCAPED-- PARASITE AND METALLO AMONG THEM
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT
YOU MANAGED TO HALT A FEW OF THEM, BUT EVEN MORE SURPRISING-- MANY WERE SIMPLY LEFT BEHIND-- WHOEVER WAS BEHIND THIS CAPER SEEMED TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHO WOULD STAY AND WHO WOULD GO.
WE FOUND KILLGRAVE ALONE IN A CORNER MUTTERING TO HIMSELF -- THE PRISONERS DON'T SEEM TO RECALL WHAT HAPPENED-- THEY APPEAR TO BE IN SOME KIND OF DAZE
STRANGE
AND NOT A CLUE AS TO WHAT WENT ON
BLAST

I'M NOT IN A VERY GOOD MOOD
ANOTHER LOUSY DAY IN A PRETTY DECENT STRING OF LOUSY DAYS
NOW, SOME BREAK-IN AT HIGH-TECH LABS HAS ME MISSING THE GAME
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT IT
FREEZE!
BRAK!... DOOM!

DRAGON!
WHO. ?
DON'T SWEAT IT SISTER--
IT'S JUST THE WINDY CITY'S ANSWER TO YER OWN BOY IN BLUE.
NO BIG DEAL.
JUST MY LUCK--A HEADING HELP NG OF METROPOLIS HEAV ES HAVE H GHTA LED IT OVER TO CHICAGO TO JO N FORCES WITH THE VICIOUS CIRCLE
TH S CAN'T BE GOOD NEWS
STOP WHERE YOU ARE--
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.
ARRGHH!
FAT CHANCE, COP!
DRAGON, LOOK OUT!

KUDA-KA-KOOM
I'M ON IT!
TRY DRAINING SOMEBODY ELSE'S POWERS, PARASITE--
MINE AREN'T UP FOR GRABS
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU--
KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK
I'D ADVISE YOU TO SURRENDER
YOU WON'T LIKE THE ALTERNATIVE
FOOL--

IF BULLETS COULD STOP US WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY--
METROPOLIS WOULD HAVE NO NEED FOR ITS 'MAN OF STEEL'
AND THE BODIES OF THE CHICAGO POLICE WOULDN'T BE POUNDED TO A PULP AT THE HANDS OF METALLO!
THAT'S NOT IN THE CARDS PAL--
YOU'RE GOING DOWNTOWN--
-AND YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
BAH!
IF BLUSTER AND BRAVADO WERE THE DETERMINING FACTORS, THEN THAT MAY VERY WELL BE TRUE
SUCH IS NOT THE CASE

BRAM!
UNGH!
WROPP!
PLUDD!
THOM!
THE LIGHTS GO DOWN
THE BAD GUYS MAKE OFF WITH WHATEVER THEY CAME FOR
AND EVERYTHING GOES BLACK
UNNGH--
WHAT HAPPENED ?
DRAGON ?
DRAGON!

METROPOLIS THE DAILY PLANET
A GREAT METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER WHERE SUPERMAN WORKS IN HIS GUISE AS MILD-MANNERED REPORTER CLARK KENT.
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE ?
IT SEEMS THAT A LOT OF MY-- OF SUPERMAN'S MOST POWERFUL ADVERSARIES HAVE JOINED FORCES --WHAT COULD THEY BE UP TO ?
ARE YOU OKAY, CLARK ?
YOU SEEM--
BIG STORY, PEOPLE--
IT LOOKS LIKE SEVERAL OF SUPERMAN'S GREATEST FOES HAVE LEFT METROPOLIS AND ARE CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE SECOND CITY
THE MAYOR OF CHICAGO HAS ASKED SUPERMAN TO HELP DEAL WITH THE INFLUX OF VILLAINS INTO CHICAGO'S NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION, THE VICIOUS CIRCLE
LOIS-- I WANT YOU ON THE FIRST PLANE TO CHICAGO-- THERE'S ONE LEAVING IN 45 MINUTES
OKAY, PERRY-- I'M ON IT
I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A RAIN CHECK ON DINNER TONIGHT CLARK
OKAY LOIS --YOU BE CAREFUL.
AREN'T I ALWAYS?

WHAT ABOUT ME, CHIEF?
BRING ME ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE--
--AND DON'T CALL ME 'CHIEF'
KENT -RUMOR HAS IT THAT LEX LUTHOR HAS HIS HANDS ON OVERLORD'S ARMOR--LUTHOR'S AS CROOKED AS THE DAY IS LONG! BUT THE WORLD THINKS HE'S A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN
OVERLORD WAS THE LEADER OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE UNTIL CHICAGO'S SUPER COP OFFICER DRAGON BROUGHT HIM DOWN
IN ANY CASE--YOU SHOULD LOOK INTO IT.
OVERLORD'S ARMOR--?
WHY WOULD HE HAVE THAT?
--I THINK IT'S FALLEN INTO THE WRONG HANDS
TO STUDY--APPARENTLY SOMEBODY THINKS LEXCORP WOULD BE THE BEST BET IN UNLOCKING ITS MYSTERIES -
THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE THE VICIOUS CIRCLE HAS RECRUITED THE MOST NEFARIOUS CRIMINALS IN THE WORLD, WHILE LUTHOR HAS CONTROL OF THE ARMOR OF THE ORGANIZATION'S MOST POWERFUL LEADER
I MAY BE SUPERMAN, BUT EVEN I CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE. THE LUTHOR SITUATION POSES NO IMMEDIATE THREAT--DISTURBING AS IT IS--BESIDES--
I'VE ALREADY MADE PLANS TO FLY TO CHICAGO

THIS IS SO EXCITING.
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THAT I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO MEET HIM.
SUPERMAN - THE MAN OF TOMORROW
UNBELIEVABLE
I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON HIM FOR YEARS
WHAT GIRL DOESN'T? HE'S YOUNG, HE'S HANDSOME - HE CAN FLY -- AND HE'S COMING HERE TO HELP CLEAN UP CHICAGO
DRAGON -- YOU MUST BE PRETTY THRILLED TO HAVE THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO COME LEND YOU A HAND
DRAGON ?
HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO THRILLED TO ME, FRANK--
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, BIG GUY?
SUPERMAN -- I'M SICK OF HEARING THAT NAME ALREADY
WHY ARE THEY SENDING OUT FOR THE BIG BLUE BOY SCOUT?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S MADE THE BIG APRICOT CRIME FREE
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE THINGS IN CHICAGO BEFORE

REALLY EXCITED TO BRING YOU...
YEAH SUPERMAN! WHERE THE MAN OF STEEL HIMSELF IS PREPARING TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WILL
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU AS WELL LIEUTENANT DARLING I'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU
YOU'VE REALLY HELPED TURN THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AROUND
JUST TRYING TO DO MY PART
COULD I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH, SUPERMAN?
IT'S FOR MY MOTHER
DON'T LOOK SO GLUM DRAGON-- EVERYBODY REACTS TO SUPERMAN LIKE THAT WHEN THEY FIRST MEET HIM
LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CITY HAS COME OUT TO GREET YOU SUPERMAN
I DON'T THINK WE CAN CONTAIN THE AUDIENCE FOR MUCH LONGER -- IF YOU COULD JUST SAY A FEW WORDS...

I'M TRULY HUMBLED BY THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT THAT YOU'VE SHOWN TO ME
I ONLY HOPE THAT I CAN RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AND BRING PEACE TO THIS FAIR CITY
ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
YES
MISS LANE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY SO MANY OF YOUR ENEMIES HAVE COME TO CHICAGO?
I WISH THAT I DID
HOW LONG ARE YOU PREPARED TO STAY IN THE CITY?
AS LONG AS IT TAKES
HEY, SUPERMAN--OVER HERE.
I HAVE ONE--
HOW COME YOU WEAR YOUR UNDERWEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR PANTS?
WHAT? WHAT? IT WAS A LEGITIMATE QUESTION
MISS FUA?

UNGH.
PARASITE-- RELAX.
SOON THE CITY WILL BE IN OUR HANDS--SOON IT WILL BELONG TO THE VICIOUS CIRCLE!
ERRR
VICIOUS CIRCLE.
I DON'T WORK FOR THE VICIOUS CIRCLE -- I SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF--
SHRAKK!
ENOUGH
I'LL HAVE NO MORE DISSENSION IN THE RANKS. MY AUTHORITY IS NOT TO BE CHALLENGED HERE
TAKE HIM AWAY

LET THIS BE A LESSON FOR ALL OF YOU
=COUGH= =COUGH=
POWERHOUSE --DEAL WITH THE PARASITE
WHAT TROUBLES YOU, SEBASTIAN?
PRAY IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS.
I-- SHOULDN'T.
BUT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE --I'M WEARY HORDE THIS HALF-LIFE THAT I'M LIVING HAS LEFT ME DRAINED
PARASITE MUST HAVE ABSORBED SOME OF DRAGON'S IMMUNITY TO YOUR WORMS HE MAY NOT BE AS USEFUL AS WE'D HOPED
PERHAPS WE'D BETTER SIPHON OFF THE POWERS HES ABSORBED AND PASS THEM ON TO ME.
HOW SOON UNTIL OUR SIPHON DEVICE IS OPERATIONAL, DATAMAN?
SOON CYBERFACE, SOON
ALL PIECES ARE HERE, IT'S A MATTER OF THEM TOGETHER

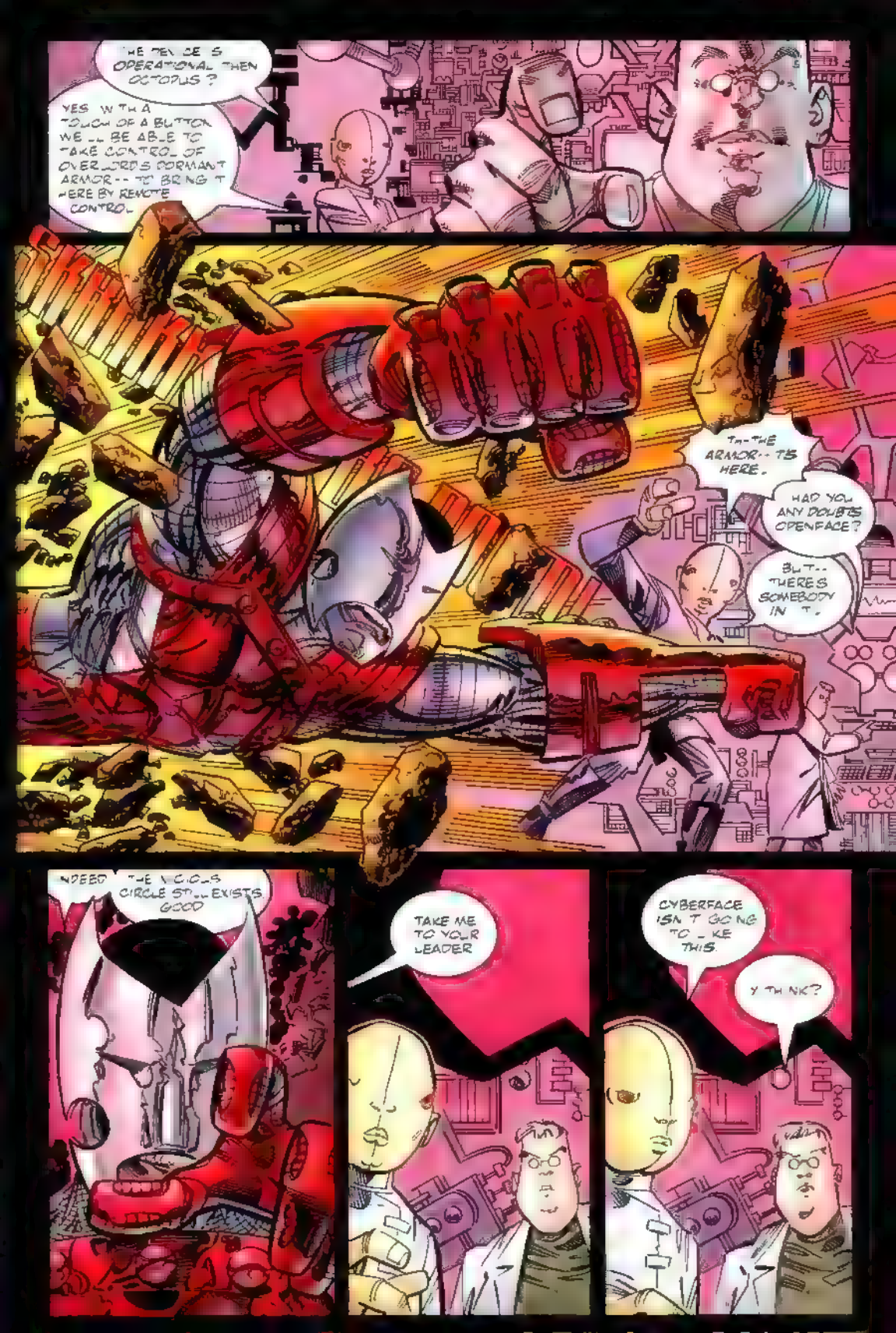
I'M DYING.
A KRYPTONITE RING THAT I HAD MADE TO KEEP SUPERMAN IN CHECK COST ME A HAND THANKS TO THE RADIATION IT EMITTED NOW IT APPEARS IT WILL COST ME MY LIFE AS WELL.
I'M DYING.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I NEED TO SURRENDER.
BEFORE ME LIES MY SALVATION ANTONIO SEGHETTI CONSTRUCTED AN ARMOR THAT KEPT HIS FEEBLE BODY GOING BEYOND ITS NATURAL LIFE. HE DOWNLOADED HIS VERY ESSENCE INTO THE ARMOR ITSELF.
AS COULD I.
IT STANDS BEFORE ME NOW, THE MOST POWERFUL MANMADE ARMOR ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, BOOBY TRAPS INACTIVE -- JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MAN TO GET INTO IT
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
GET LUTHOR -- HE'S SURROUNDED BY A BEVY OF KNOCKOUT DAMES AND HE'S BUSY SCOPING OUT OVERLORD'S PAJAMAS!
SHUT UP, NIXON
ANTONIO SEGHETTI CLIMBED THE RANKS TO BECOME THE LEADER OF CHICAGO'S MOB ONCE FREAKS STARTED OVERRUNNING THE CITY HE HAD A SUIT OF ARMOR MADE SO THAT HE COULD MAINTAIN HIS LEADERSHIP.
A FREAK COP, WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH SEGHETTI'S SECOND IN COMMAND SHUT HIM DOWN USING A SEQUENCE OF PRESSURE POINTS DESIGNED TO DISARM THE BATTLE-SUIT.
SURELY WITH THE GENIUS AT MY DISPOSAL, I CAN ELIMINATE THOSE FAIL-SAFES WE'VE ALREADY MENDED THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO IT BY OFFICER DRAGON AND HAVE DISCOVERED HOW TO RECALIBRATE IT FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN SEGHETTI...
JUST IMAGINE WHAT I COULD DO WITH THAT KIND OF POWER.

SKRA-KOOM!!
GHAA!

BLAM BLAM BLAM
IS THOSE VICIOUS CIRCLE FREAKS.
STOP THEM.
BOOOOOM
THE ARMOR-- I'VE GOT TO SAVE THE ARMOR!
MOVE IT GUYS--
LETS GO.
KHOOM
WHAT THE ?
FREEZE DIRT BAG.
THE ARMOR!
GRAB THE -
WHAT
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
:COUGH COUGH:

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T WANT SOMEBODY ELSE COMING IN HERE AND TELLING YOU HOW TO DO THINGS
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO HERE THERE'S A JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND I WANT TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN TO-
SUPERMAN DRAGON-- THE VICOLS CIRCLE BROKE INTO THORS PLACE BACK IN METROPOLIS-- OVERLORD'S ARMOR HAS DISAPPEARED-- THOR CAN'T BE FOUND EITHER
THEY'RE STILL POKING THROUGH THE RUBBLE
WHAT?
YOU BIG 'D OT-
--WHILE YOU SAT AROUND HERE ON YOUR CAPE THOR'S PAD WAS RAZED BACK HOME.
YOU USELESS SACK OF-
DRAGON-
GIVE THE POOR GUY A BREAK!
HE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE HE MAY BE SUPERMAN, BUT EVEN HE CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!
DRAGON ?

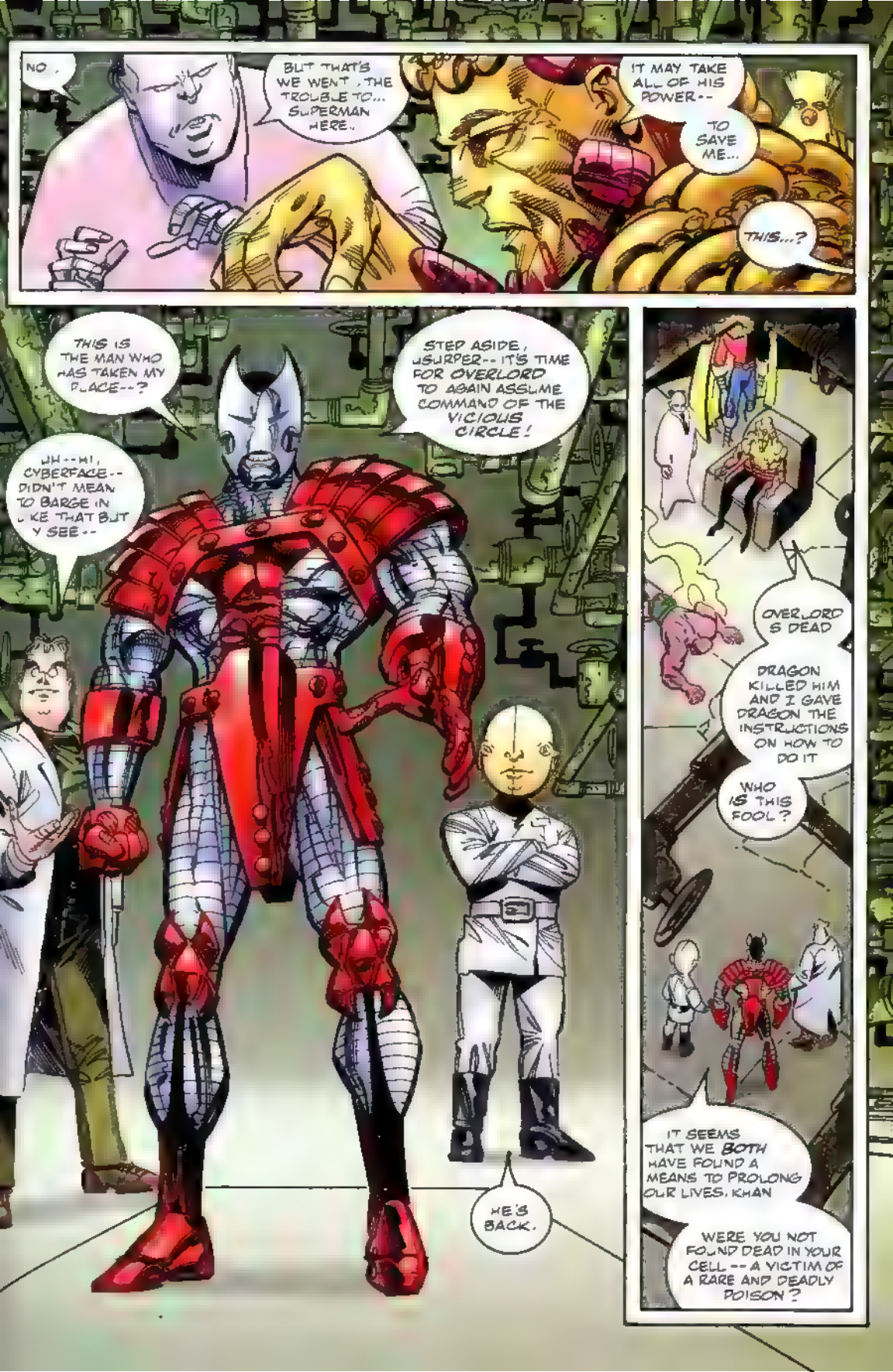
WHAT'S THAT DRAGON?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST SUPERMAN?
POLICE
HE'S AN OVERRATED, 2-WHEADED SHOWBOATING BEAUTY QUEEN
HE FLIES IN HERE AND EVERYBODY JUST MOONS OVER HIM LIKE HE WAS THE SECOND COMING BUT HE'S JUST AN INCOMPETENT BOOB! HE DOESN'T KNOW THE CITY-- HE DOESN'T KNOW THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
HE DOESN'T KNOW JACK AND THAT MAKES HIM A MENACE TO CHICAGO AND A HINDRANCE TO ME. HE'S A VIGILANTE AND A SPANDEX-WEARING PRETTY-BOY WHO GRABS ALL THE GLORY WHILE STIFFS LIKE ME DO ALL THE WORK.
HE'S HARDLY A 'VIGILANTE.' SUPERMAN IS EMPOWERED NOT ONLY BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES BUT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL. YOU TWO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON-- YOU'RE BOTH FIGHTING FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY--
YOU'RE BOTH STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND WITH POWERS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF NORMAL MEN, FIGHTING FOR THE LIVES OF THE COMMON MAN--
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH-- LOOK, MISS LANE--
WE'RE ALL MIGHTY IMPRESSED BY HIS DASHING GOOD LOOKS AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.
OH, COME OFF IT. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DEALT SUCH AN AWFUL HAND. YOU'RE FAR FROM HIDEOUS--
IS THAT RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK--?
I JUST THINK YOU'RE JEALOUS.
WELL, DUH!


THE DEVICE IS OPERATIONAL THEN OCTOPUS?
YES WITH A TOUCH OF A BUTTON WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF OVERLORD'S DORMANT ARMOR -- TO BRING IT HERE BY REMOTE CONTROL.
I'M-THE ARMOR-- IS HERE.
HAD YOU ANY DOUBTS CYBERFACE?
BUT-- THERE'S SOMEBODY IN IT.
INDEED THE VICIOUS CIRCLE STILL EXISTS GOOD
TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER
CYBERFACE ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS.
I THINK?

GREAT-- JUST GREAT--
SO TELL ME--
WHEN MY CITY GOES UP IN A BALL OF FIRE ARE YOU GOING TO GO HOME RIGHT AWAY--
--OR ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK OUT THE MARSHMALLOWS AND ROAST A FEW BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD?

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU EVEN GO ON PATROL--
GIVE ME STRENGTH.
CAN'T YOU JUST SIT IN A DONUT SHOP AND USE YOUR TELESCOPIC X-RAY VISION TO LOOK FOR BAD GUYS FROM THE COMFORT OF A CORNER BOOTH?
I COULD BE SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME WITH A HALF DOZEN RAISED GLAZED RIGHT NOW, INSTEAD OF FREEZING MY--
THAT'S ENOUGH.
WE'RE BOTH ON THE SAME SIDE HERE
WE'RE BOTH TRYING TO--
OH, COME OFF IT-- THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO SWEET-TALK ME SPIT-CURL BOY-- I'M ON TO YOU
THIS ISN'T ABOUT SAVING CHICAGO -- IT'S ABOUT SAVING YOUR REP!
YOU JUST CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF A FREAK COP FROM CHICAGO CRASHING IN YOUR PRECIOUS ROGUES GALLERY KICKING AND SCREAMING.
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT CHICAGO
YOU'RE WRONG DRAGON
DEAD WRONG.
SAVE IT FOR THE RUBES, BOY SCOUT.
I'M NOT BUYING IT

DO IT
FRAKKA
ZAKKA
ZAKKA!
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND
BUT I FEAR IT WON'T BE ENOUGH...
IT SEEMS ALL OF OUR EFFORTS WEREN'T WASTED THE STOLEN COMPONENTS HAVE ALLOWED ME TO BE ABLE TO SIPHON OFF ENERGY FROM PARASITE EVEN AS HE TAKES POWERS FROM OTHERS


NO.
BUT THAT'S WHY WE WENT TO THE TROUBLE TO... SUPERMAN HERE..
IT MAY TAKE ALL OF HIS POWER--
TO SAVE ME...
THIS...?
THIS IS THE MAN WHO HAS TAKEN MY PLACE--?
STEP ASIDE, USURPER-- IT'S TIME FOR OVERLORD TO AGAIN ASSUME COMMAND OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE!
UH--HI, CYBERFACE-- DIDN'T MEAN TO BARGE IN LIKE THAT BUT Y SEE--
HE'S BACK.
OVERLORD S DEAD
DRAGON KILLED HIM AND I GAVE DRAGON THE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DO IT
WHO IS THIS FOOL?
IT SEEMS THAT WE BOTH HAVE FOUND A MEANS TO PROLONG OUR LIVES, KHAN
WERE YOU NOT FOUND DEAD IN YOUR CELL -- A VICTIM OF A RARE AND DEADLY POISON?

NICE TRY, WHOEVER YOU ARE--
BUT I'M NOT BUYING IT!
WRAMM!
LITTLE MATTER
I SUPPOSE--
I MUST--
HE'S HURT, DYING
YES--
AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE HIM LIVE TO DRAW ANOTHER BREATH YOU'LL SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE--
TO ME.
KRAKKA-BRAKKA-BA-DOOM!

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE--ANY OF THESE CRIMINALS DON'T GET ALONG - OR SHOULDN'T- THEY HAVE SEPARATE CONFLICTING AGENDAS--
WHY WOULD THEY IGNORE THAT AND JOIN FORCES? WHAT WOULD POSSESS THEM TO JOIN A GANG OF THUGS LIKE THE VICIOUS CIRCLE?
IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP
NEITHER DOES CALLING IN YOU, TWINKLE-TOES. WHEN HALF THE TOWN HAS WALLS PAINTED WITH LEAD AND YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING IN THAT NOODLE OF YOURS BUT AN EMPTY PIT AND A SPACE FOR RENT SIGN
ANYBODY WITH THAT MUCH POWER BEHIND THEM COULD TAKE OVER THE WORLD, FANCY PANTS-- MAYBE YOUR OLD SPARRING PARTNERS FINALLY WISED UP TO THAT FACT.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY - THAT YOUR BAD GUYS ARE TOO GOOD FOR THE VICIOUS CIRCLE?

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE OFFICER DRAGON -- HE'S NOT USED TO WORKING WITH A PARTNER.
I'LL VOUCH FOR THAT

LOOK -- I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE--
BUT FRANKLY -

I THINK IT WOULD BE A LOT MORE EFFICIENT IF I JUST SCOURED THE CITY ON MY OWN --
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

HAS ANYBODY HAD ANY LUCK LOCATING LUTHOR OR THE OVERLORD ARMOR?
SORRY
NOTHING SO FAR
BLAST IT!
I'M TIRED OF JUST STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING.
THAT MAKES TWO OF US-- I'M TIRED OF YOU STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING TOO!
I'M GOING OUT.
IF YOU DROP BY THE LAUNDRY-- COULD YOU PICK UP A COUPLE SHIRTS FOR ME?
GRRRR.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO CHASE HIM OFF LIKE THAT GUESS I OVERDID IT EH?
I HOPE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING
DON'T WORRY, DRAGON-- HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF
MAYBE
MAYBE HE CAN--
IF HE'S EVERYTHING HE'S CRACKED UP TO BE
--AND MAYBE I'LL END UP WITH EGG ON MY FACE AND CROW ON MY PLATE
BEATS THE ALTERNATIVE-- LAST THING I'D WANT IS THOSE CLOWNS TAKING OUT THE BIG DOPE AND LEAVE ME TO PICK UP THE PIECES
POLICE
I HATE TO SAY IT--
BUT DRAGON'S RIGHT.
MY X-RAY VISION IS ALMOST USELESS HERE WITH ALL OF THE LEAD-LINED WALLS
STILL--UNLESS THESE CHARACTERS ARE SPENDING ALL OF THEIR TIME INDOORS I'M BOUND TO SEE SOMETHING EVENTUALLY THAT WILL LEAD ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
IT'S A PUZZLE--
THE ONLY POSSIBLE REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR THESE FOES TO COME TO CHICAGO--
IS TO DRAW ME HERE--
BUT WHY?
WHY HERE?

THRA
UNNGH.
GREETINGS SUPERMAN
FROM ONE MAN OF STEEL TO ANOTHER.
O-OVER_ORD··
BR GUT BOY
A PITY IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD

Y GOTTA HAND IT TO THE FELLOW--
THE MAN WAS OUT THERE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES AND HE MANAGED TO F ND A WHOLE MESS OF BAD GUYS
WA T!
OR THEY FOUND HIM.
LET'S ROLL.
SUPERMAN
M SS LANE F I DIDN T KNOW ANY BETTER I D THINK YOU HAD A THING FOR SUPERMAN--
NO-- I.
I M ENGAGED
SUPERMAN IS A TH NG OF THE PAST
BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT H M...

THE HELL--?
DOES THIS GIRL ALWAYS DO THIS?
SOMETHING'S WRONG--AND IT'S NOT JUST THE SILVER BANSHEE EITHER--
BRANIAC--
NOT TO MENTION YOUR MOP-HEADED EVIL TWIN HERE--
USUALLY THE EVIL TWINS GO FOR THE GOATEE LOOK--THIS GUY REALLY MISSED THE MARK--
ARE ALL YOUR BOYS ROBOTS?!
NOT ALL OF THEM--!

BUT IT SEEMS THAT WHOEVER ISN'T A ROBOT IS BEING CONTROLLED IN SOME WAY--
PSI-PHON AND DREADNAUGHT WERE USED PURELY AS MUSCLE-- NEITHER UTILIZED THEIR POWER TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT..
AND WE CAN COUNT OUR BLESSINGS FOR THAT!
YOU'D THINK THAT BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WE'D BE ABLE TO PUT UP A PRETTY DECENT FIGHT-- AND YOU'D BE RIGHT FOR A MINUTE OR TWO--
--BUT CONSIDERING THE ODDS--
--IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME--
THE DRAGON'S DOWN-- OR NEARLY SO
I DON'T HAVE ANY OPTIONS--
ANY GOOD ONES, ANYWAY-- IF I FLY OUT OF HERE I MIGHT SAVE MY OWN SKIN BUT THE DRAGON WOULD BE HELPLESS--
--AND IF I STAY AND FIGHT--
--WE'LL BOTH--
TOK!
THRAK!
WRAMM!

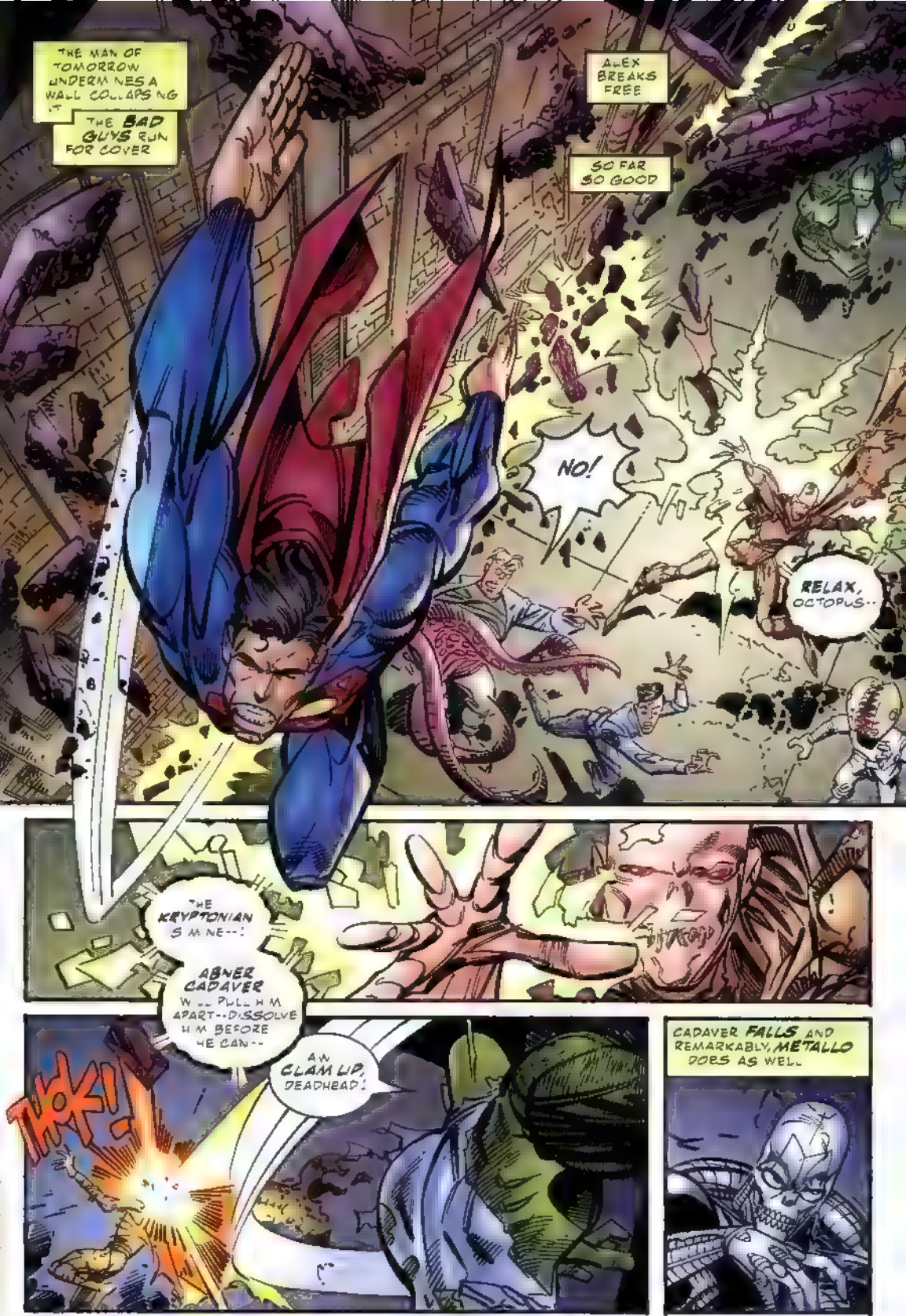
AND SO IT ENDS

NOTHING COULD HAPPEN, I MEAN -- HOW COULD IT?
HE'S SUPERMAN -- THE MAN OF STEEL -- THE METROPOLIS MARVEL -- HOW COULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM?
HE'LL BE FINE.
THEY'LL BOTH BE FINE.
DRAGON HASN'T LET ME DOWN YET.
THEY'LL BE FINE --
THE TWO OF THEM TORE INTO THE VICIOUS CIRCLE -- UNCONSCIOUS MEMBERS ARE BEING CARTED OFF BY THE TRUCKLOAD --
LIEUTENANT --
LIEUTENANT DARLING --
WHAT'S --?
IT'S ALEX WILDE, SR --
SHE -- SHE FOLLOWED THEM --
SHE TALKED DRAGON AND SUPERMAN -- THEY'RE HOLED UP DOWN IN THE UNDERGROUND -- MOST OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE ARE THERE -- OVERLORD TOO

TIRED
I'M AWAKE AND W RED FOR SOUND. CYBERFACE IS ALL HOOKED UP TO ME AND THE B G BLUE BOY SCOUT
T'S SHOWT ME
SUDDENLY THE LIGHTS GO DIM-- I START GETTING THE LIFE PUMPED OJT OF ME, SUPERMAN TOO, AND CYBERFACE--
--HES TAKING IT ALL IN

LUCKILY-- I'VE GOT BACKUP--
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT--
THIS ENDS NOW!
GET DOWN!
BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
FZING!
SPAK!
BROOM!
BRRRRA-BA-DOOM!
"JNNGH!
YOU'VE JUST GOT TO LOVE THAT GIRL

DRAGON--
SUPERMAN--!
HELP--!
PAUSE FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT
--AND ACTION--!
DROP THE WOMAN-- NOW!
AIN'T NOBODY GONNA HELP YOU, SISTER--.
IT'S GOOD ADVICE--
I'D LISTEN TO THE GUY.
MIGHT I FURTHER RECOMMEND YOU HIGHTAIL IT OUTTA HERE?
JUST TRYING TO BE HELPFUL.


THE MAN OF TOMORROW UNDERMINES A WALL COLLAPSING
THE BAD GUYS RUN FOR COVER
ALEX BREAKS FREE
SO FAR SO GOOD
NO!
RELAX, OCTOPUS--
THE KRYPTONIAN SHINE--!
ABNER CADAVER WILL PULL HIM APART--DISSOLVE HIM BEFORE HE CAN--
THOK!
AW CLAM UP, DEADHEAD!
CADAVER FALLS AND REMARKABLY, METALLO DOES AS WELL

MORE EVIDENCE THAT SUPERMAN'S BATTLE BUDDIES WEREN'T SIDING WITH THE VICIOUS CIRCLE UNDER THEIR OWN FREE WILL.
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BRING YOU DOWN?
MORE THAN YOU CAN MUSTER, ALIEN
KA-BOOM!
HA!
GOT YOU!
TAK!
NOT FOR LONG, PARASITE.
ARRGH!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, SUPES--
ALLOW ME TO RETURN THE FAVOR--
BLAMBLAM BLAMBLAM
THERE ARE FAIL-SAFES INSTALLED IN OVERLORD'S ARMOR -- A SERIES OF PRESSURE POINTS WHEN STRUCK IN THE CORRECT ORDER THAT DISABLE AND SHUT DOWN ASPECTS OF THE POWER SUIT
TAK! TAK! TAK! TAK!
DONE AND DONE

NOW I'VE GOT YOU--
OH BROTHER--
NOW--
WHERE WERE WE ?
WHOOP
AUTHOR
SUPERMAN--
WHERE--
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU LOST, AUTHOR--
I'VE GOT YOU AT LAST.
MEANWHILE--

THE BAD GUYS TAKE OFF-- GATEWAY GETS THEM OUT OF HERE--CYBERFACE INCLUDED
WHILE I TEST OUT A THEORY--
WHAT ARE YOU--?
HOLD THAT POSE, SUNSHINE--
BINGO
SQUIT!
THANKS FOR PLAYING ALONG
IT'S OVER, LUTHOR--
YOU'VE STEPPED OVER THE LINE ONE TOO MANY TIMES--AND THIS TIME, I CAUGHT YOU!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DO I GET HERE?
POOR SUPERMAN

THE BAD GUYS WENT BACK TO WHEREVER BAD GUYS GO WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN MY FACE
CYBERFACE IS WEAK.
THE WORMS HAVE BEEN REMOVED-- OUR SCHEME UNDONE--
SUPERMANS FOES ARE AS THEY WERE AND THE MAN OF STEEL WILL SOON RETURN TO THE CITY FROM WHICH HE CAME
IS ENDED.
THIS PUPPET LEADER OF OURS GROWS WEAKER-- IF A CURE FOR HIS CONDITION IS NOT FOUND SOON HE WILL BE LOST TO US.
WE WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO HELP SEBASTIAN KHAN--
BUT THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY-- WE'VE SUFFERED TERRIBLE CASUALTIES TODAY.
LUTHOR WALKED
CLEARLY HE WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WAS NO WAY FOR US TO HOLD HIM

SUPERMAN'S NOT TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.
HOW D I DO?
YOU D D GOOD, ALEX
YOU SAVED BOTH OUR BUTTS
ALL OF TH S -- JUST TO GET A P ECE OF ME AND AS USUAL -- LEX THOR JUST WALKS AWAY A FREE MAN
POLICE
WHERE S THE JUSTICE?
LOOK AT YOU TWO--
I CAN T TE L F YOU WON OR LOST!
WON
LOST
SOUNDS TO ME L KE THERE'S A STORY IN THERE SOMEWHERE
WHY DON'T YOU THREE TELL ME ALL ABOUT T-- OVER DINNER.
MY TREAT
SO THE MAN OF STEEL HAS FEET OF CLAY.
HE S NOT AS PERFECT AND NFALL BLE AS H S PRESS MAKES H M OUT TO BE I CAN RELATE TO THAT
TURNS OUT, HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL--
--FOR A MAN WHO DOESN'T PUT ON HIS UNDERWEAR PROPERLY.
END

RINGS OF FIRE

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DAN JURGENS - STORY AND PENCILS * ART THIBERT - FINISHED INKS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERS * GLENN WHITMORE - COLORS * "MORT" CARLIN - EDITOR

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 473 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $9.00, Canada $14.00, all other foreign $21.00. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1990 DC Comics Inc, All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company
G-5891

THANKS, JIMMY. YOU'RE ONE OF THE FIRST WE WANTED TO TELL!

WE BOTH CONSIDER YOU A VERY SPECIAL FRIEND, YOU KNOW.

SO WHEN AND WHERE? AND MORE IMPORTANT--

--DO I GET TO BE IN THE WEDDING PARTY?

CONSIDER IT A SURE BET, JIM.

IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, WE'LL EVEN MATCH YOU UP WITH LOIS' SISTER LUCY!

OUCH! EASY ON THE RIBS, CLARK. THAT BULLET WOUND OF MINE IS STILL KINDA SORE!

POOR BABY! MAYBE YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND THROUGH A WEDDING?

BITE YOUR TONGUE, SOON-TO-BE-MRS. KENT!

WISH I COULD CHAT LONGER BUT THE CHIEF WANTED ME BACK EARLY TODAY!

IS IT OKAY IF I PASS THE WORD?

GO RIGHT AHEAD, PAUL REVERE!

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE THE ONES TO ANNOUNCE THE NEWS, CLARK?

AWW, JIMMY'S HAD SUCH A TOUGH TIME OF IT LATELY THAT HE DESERVES SOME FUN!

BESIDES, I'M STILL WONDERING HOW TO BREAK THE NEWS TO MY FOLKS!

THOUGH I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION MY MA ALREADY HAD THE FEELING.

AS FOR BEING CALLED "MRS. KENT," DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO ME KEEPING MY LAST--HEY!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?

I'D KNOW THAT SYMBOL ANYWHERE! IT'S A *GREEN LANTERN* INSIGNIA!

BUT WHY THE HECK IS IT FLOATING OUT OVER *METROPOLIS*?

COULD BE A FLARE... OR A MARKER OF SORTS.

MAYBE IT'S LIKE THE *BAT SYMBOL!*

IT'S A SIGN FROM *GOD!*

WHATEVER IT IS, I BET IT MEANS *TROUBLE.*

LOOK, IT'S CHANGING SHAPE!

NOW IT'S *SUPERMAN'S* SYMBOL!

GEE, CLARK, I BET ONE OF THE LANTERNS IS TRYING TO CONTACT SUPERMAN!

I'M GOING TO PHONE THIS STORY INTO THE OFFICE!

WHY DON'T YOU CHECK THE WIRE SERVICES TO SEE IF THIS IS HAPPENING IN ANY OTHER CITIES?

GOOD IDEA, LOIS!

I WAS LUCKY THIS TIME! LOIS GAVE ME THE *OUT* I NEEDED!

CAN'T HELP FEELING LIKE A BIT OF A JERK THOUGH.

IRS

HERE I AM ABOUT TO MARRY THE WOMAN--

--AND I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD HER MY GREATEST *SECRET!*

AGAIN, HE FLAUNTS HIMSELF.

NO MATTER HOW VOCIFEROUSLY HE DENIES IT--

--SUPERMAN IS CONTINUALLY TRYING TO CLAIM MY CITY--MY *METROPOLIS* AS HIS!

HIS PRESENCE IS EVERYWHERE--A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THE MAN WHO *FAILED* TO SAVE MY *SON'S LIFE!*

EXCUSE ME, MR. LUTHOR, BUT DR. PETER TONEGAWA IS HERE TO SIGN THAT BILLION-DOLLAR CONTRACT.'

MISS BROOKS, IS IT?

YOU SHOULD WELL KNOW THAT WHEN I CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS AND DEMAND *PRIVACY*--

--THAT I *MEAN IT!*

CLEAN OUT YOUR DESK AND GET OUT OF MY BUILDING!

AND DON'T EVEN CONSIDER COMING BACK!

Y-YES, SIR...

MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES, DEAR ONE. I FEAR I BADGERED YOU INTO INTERRUPTING MR. LUTHOR.

FORTUNATELY, I AM NOT WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES.

MY FIRM WILL CERTAINLY HAVE AN OPENING FOR YOU.

TH-THANK YOU. LUTHOR'S BEEN SUCH A CREEP LATELY--

EXCORP

--THAT HE'S GONNA GO OUT OF BUSINESS IF HE KEEPS IT UP!

OOOO, YEAH... I'M A HUNK, A HUNK O' ♪ BURNIN' ♫ LOVE...

IT MAY BE A REAL SLEAZE PIT, BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU GOTTA LOVE ABOUT NEW YORK!

THERE ARE SO MANY HOTEL ROOMS HERE--

--THAT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE FERGETTIN' TO DRAW THE DRAPES!

HEY! YOU'RE BLOCKIN' MY VIEW, YA BIG--

OH. IT'S YOU.

WHAT'S UP, GARDNER? WHY DID YOU SEND FOR ME?

HEY, LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT, BIG S--

-- I DID *NOT* SEND FOR YOU!

THIS BOY CAN HANDLE HIS OWN MESSES!

THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE *REAL* GREEN LANTERN. YOU KNOW--

THE *FIRST* ONE.

THE *REAL*?!

YOU STEPPED IN IT NOW, PAL! AIN'T NO ONE GETS TO CUT GUY GARDNER--

--THE *REAL* GREEN LANTERN, THAT WAY!

GARDNER...

...LET GO OF MY CAPE!

UHH... SURE. HEY, NO PROBLEM! JUST KIDDIN' THERE, BLUE!

NICE-LOOKIN' CAPE, TOO. JUST THE KIND I'D WEAR IF THE CORPS HAD 'EM.

LOOK, GARDNER, YOUR COLLEAGUE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE. ANY IDEA WHERE HE IS?

AWW, THE BLEEDIN' HEART IS OUT WANDERIN' THE COUNTRY TRYIN' TA *FIND* HIMSELF!

THE STIFF IS TOO PROUD AND/OR *STUPID* TO ASK *ME* FER HELP, I GUESS.

LESSEE IF THE OLD POWER RING CAN PINPOINT MR. EXCITEMENT.

WHAT'S THAT?

LOOKS LIKE A MAP OF WYOMING.

CORRECT. THIS IS THE LAST RECORDED LOCATION OF THE GREEN LANTERN YOU SEEK.

WHAT'S HIS CURRENT LOCATION?

UNKNOWN. A COMMUNICATION LINK IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE--

--FOR THE RING IN QUESTION EXHAUSTED ITS ENERGY SUPPLY ONE HOUR, SEVEN MINUTES AGO.

JORDAN HAS BEEN ACTIN' LIKE A MAJOR-LEAGUE HEAD CASE LATELY 'BOUT BEING A LANTERN--

--BUT THAT DON'T MEAN HE'D LET HIS RING RUN OUTTA JUICE!

YEAH, AND IT WAS JUST OVER AN HOUR AGO THAT THE SYMBOLS FADED FROM THE SKY.

SO LONG, GARDNER. THANKS FOR THE INFO.

JUST A FREAKIN' MINUTE THERE, BLUE-BOY!

WAY JORDAN'S BEEN ACTIN' LATELY, HE PROBABLY DESERVES TO COOK IN WHATEVER STEW HE'S IN!

FORTUNATELY I GOT WAY TOO BIGGA HEART TO LET THAT HAPPEN!

CONSIDER YOURSELF SHADOWED, PAL!

WONDERFUL.

I'M ELATED.

LISTEN, SUPES YOU JUST MIGHT REALLY NEED ME!

"AND, HARD AS THIS MAY BE FOR A SUPER-STAR LIKE YOU TO ADMIT, JORDAN COULD'VE BEEN TAGGED BY SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER THAN YOU!"

"CLAM UP, GARDNER."

"YESSIR."

KNOW, GREEN LANTERN OF EARTH, THAT YOU HAVE MY EVERLASTING GRATITUDE.

WITHOUT YOU, I WOULD CONTINUE TO FACE AN INFINITE BURIAL.

WITHOUT YOUR EXTRAORDINARY EMERALD POWER, EARTH WOULD FOREVER BE MY TOMB.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO A SIMPLE EXPLORATORY MISSION TO THIS LONELY WORLD WENT AWRY WHEN MY CRAFT CRASHED HERE.

THE COMPUTERS CHARGED WITH AWAKENING ME FROM SUSPENDED ANIMATION FAILED--

--AND I SLUMBERED THOUSANDS OF CRITICAL YEARS AWAY, MY BATTERIES DRAINING THEMSELVES ALL THE WHILE.

WHEN MY SLEEP FINALLY ENDED, MY SHIP LACKED THE POWER TO BLAST FREE FROM THIS MAUSOLEUM OF GLACIAL ROCK.

NOW YOUR POWER BATTERY'S INCREDIBLE ENERGY--

--WILL AT LAST TAKE ME TO THE SURFACE.

YEAH, AND WHEN YOU BLAST OUTTA HERE YOU'LL PROBABLY TAKE HALF OF WYOMING WITH YOU!

HOLD. TWO OTHERS APPROACH MY SPHERE OF AWARENESS.

ONE OF THEM LIKE YOURSELF.

THEN MY MESSAGE *DID* GET THROUGH TO SUPERMAN!

FIRST THING THAT'S GONE RIGHT SINCE I FELL INTO THIS PROVERBIAL HORNET'S NEST!

I'VE SPENT THE LAST FEW WEEKS WANDERING THE COUNTRY TRYING TO FIND... *SOMETHING*... MEANING, I GUESS.

LAST THING I WANTED WAS TROUBLE. SO WHO'D EXPECT IT TO COME FROM A DESOLATE AIR FORCE BASE IN WYOMING?

NO ADMITTANCE U.S.A.F PROPER I.D. REQUIRED

THIS--THIS *INSIGNIFICANT* WORM IS THE ONE WE ARE ORDERED TO APPREHEND, *PSI-PHON*?

CAUTION, *DREADNAUGHT*! OUR MASTER SENSES THAT HE WIELDS GREAT POWER!

WHY *ME*? IT'S LIKE THEY *KNOW* I'M A *GREEN LANTERN*!

THEY DID. SEEMS MY JAILER HERE TOLD 'EM ALL ABOUT ME.

ONCE THE SHORT GUY GOT IN MY HEAD AND BLOCKED MY MIND FROM USING MY RING--

-- THE PURPLE GUY POUNDED ME SILLY AND HAULED ME INTO *THIS* BIG GUY'S SHIP.

BY THAT TIME MY RING HAD ALMOST EXHAUSTED ITS TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SUPPLY.

HAD JUST ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO FIRE OFF THAT *S.O.S.*

BUT THE GIANT SAID THERE WERE *TWO* OTHERS APPROACHING... ONE LIKE ME!

GOD, PLEASE DON'T LET IT BE WHO I THINK IT IS.

GENERAL FISK, YOU WILL *DEAL* WITH THE APPROACHING INTRUDERS.

THESE INTRUDERS *MUST* BE DEALT WITH, THORKLESON! WHAT'S THE SITUATION!

WE GOT TWO BOGIES ABOUT SIXTEEN MINUTES OUT, GENERAL FISK.

BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'RE *ENEMY* AIR--

QUIET, THORKLESON!

IT'S POSSIBLE OUR RADAR IS BEING FOOLED BY A NEW ENEMY JAMMING DEVICE!

SCRAMBLE A COUPLE OF F-14'S, BOYS.

THEIR ORDERS: BLOW THOSE BOGIES CLEAR OUTTA THE SKY!

"WELL DONE, GENERAL FISK.

"YOUR PRIMITIVE HARDWARE SHOULD PROVE QUITE ADEQUATE AT REMOVING THE THREAT."

IT'S SO QUIET AND PEACEFUL! HARD TO IMAGINE THAT GREEN LANTERN GOT INTO TROUBLE WAY OUT HERE!

AWW, KNOWING JORDAN, HE PROBABLY GOT HIS BIG TOE CAUGHT IN A GOPHER HOLE!

JORDAN? IS THAT HIS FIRST NAME OR LAST?

RADAR'S LOCKED ON *BOGIE ONE* AND MISSILES ARE ARMED!

PROBLEM IS... I DON'T THINK IT'S A *PLANE!*

COMMAND SAYS IT'S DISTORTION FROM *JAMMING!*

I'M LOCKED ON BOGIE TWO AND READY TO FIRE!

THEN LET 'EM GO AND SCATTER!

MISSILES AWAY!

SHOOM

HOLD THE PHONE, PAL! YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW WHO JOR--

--GREEN LANTERN IS? I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE BUDS!

LONG TIME PROFESSIONAL ACQUAINTENCES IS *MORE* LIKE IT.

THERE *WAS* A TIME WHEN NOBODY TOLD THEIR--

LISTEN!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE--

--MISSILES!

AMERICAN MISSILES!

I ALWAYS KNEW THE COMMIES WERE GOING TO ATTACK ONE DAY!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER OUR OWN BASES, TOO!

DIRTY, STINKIN' REDSKIES-- THEY MAKE ME WANNA PUKE!

GARDNER, *WAIT* UNTIL WE KNOW WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH!

EJECT! EJECT!

I ALREADY KNOW *WHAT* I'M DEALING WITH! *SCUM!*

ALWAYS WISHED I'D BEEN AROUND FOR WORLD WAR II!

MAYBE I'LL GET LUCKY AND WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE!

WHAT THE-- *EJECT!*

AIEEE!

MY CHUTE WON'T OPEN! I'M GONNA DI--! WHA--?

GARDNER, YOU *BONEHEAD!* THESE ARE *AMERICANS!*

FIRE THAT RING ONE MORE TIME AND YOU'LL BE WEARING IT IN YOUR NOSE!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DISABLE THEIR EQUIPMENT UNTIL WE GET SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

SO I OPERATE ON THE FRINGE! SUE ME!

HEY, THE RING'S INDICATIN' THAT OUR BOY IS BELOW THE SURFACE OF THAT RUNWAY!

ABOUT TIME YOU USED THAT RING FOR SOMETHING USEFUL!

KRAKK

YEEEOW!

GET YOUR COMMANDER DOWN HERE ON THE DOUBLE, SOLDIER!

BOOM

YESSIR!

I'M ALREADY HERE, SUPERMAN!

SECURITY, KILL THIS INTRUDER IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT?!

K-KILL SUPERMAN?

WITH THESE POP GUNS? UH-UH! NO WAY... NOT ME!

FISK'S BEEN ACTIN' WEIRD FOR MONTHS! I SAY WE TAKE OUR CHANCES AND IGNORE HIM!

SMART BOYS YOU HAVE THERE, GENERAL.

NOW, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH GREEN LANTERN?

DOUBT HE KNOWS, PAL!

ACCORDIN' TO THE RING HE'S STILL A FEW THOUSAND FEET BELOW US!

THINK THEY GOT SOME KINDA HUSH-HUSH MILITARY GIZMO BURIED DOWN THERE?

IT'S POSSIBLE. AND IN A SECOND MY X-RAY VISION WILL REVEAL-- WHOA-HO!

LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF *HUGE* SHIP BURIED DOWN THERE--

--AND IT'S *ATTACHED* TO THIS FACILITY! IF THAT'S *NOT* ONE OF OURS, WE'RE UP AGAINST A *MAJOR ALIEN* SPACESHIP OF SOME KIND!

IT'S NOT JUST ANY ALIEN SHIP, SUPERMAN!

INDEED, YOU HAVE DISCOVERED OUR *MASTER'S* SHIP.

OH... NO!

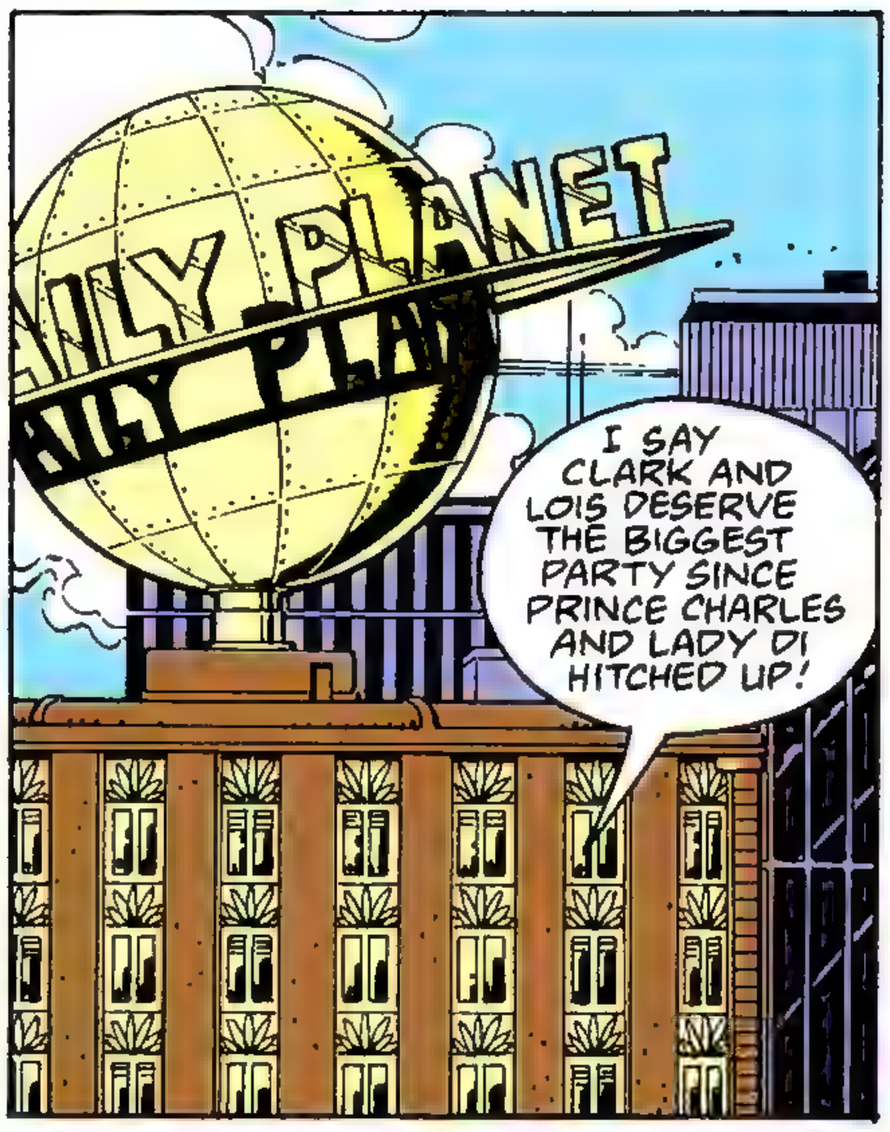
NOT DREADNAUGHT AND PSI-PHON.

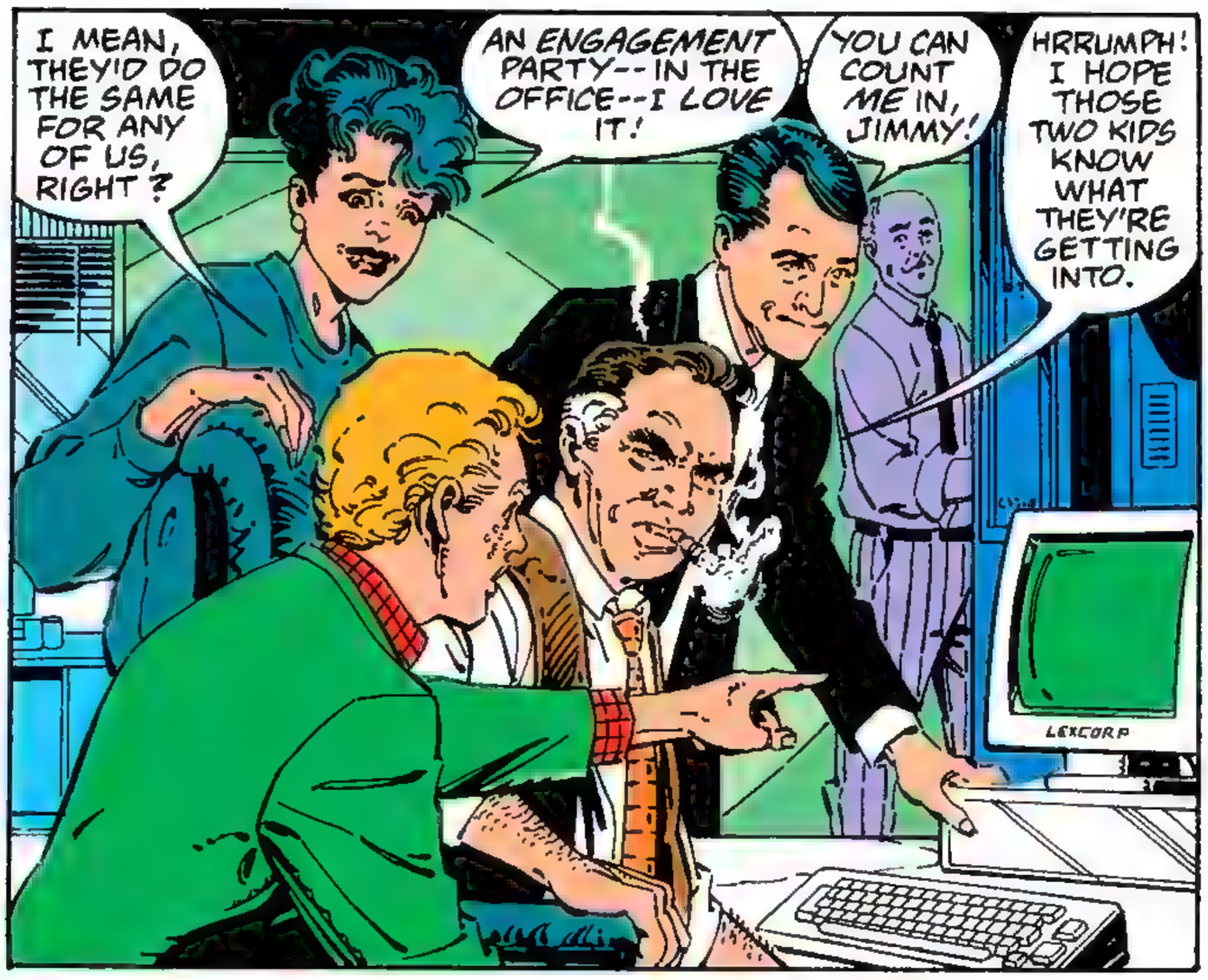
NOT *NOW!* THEY CAN'T *POSSIBLY* BE INVOLVED IN THIS!

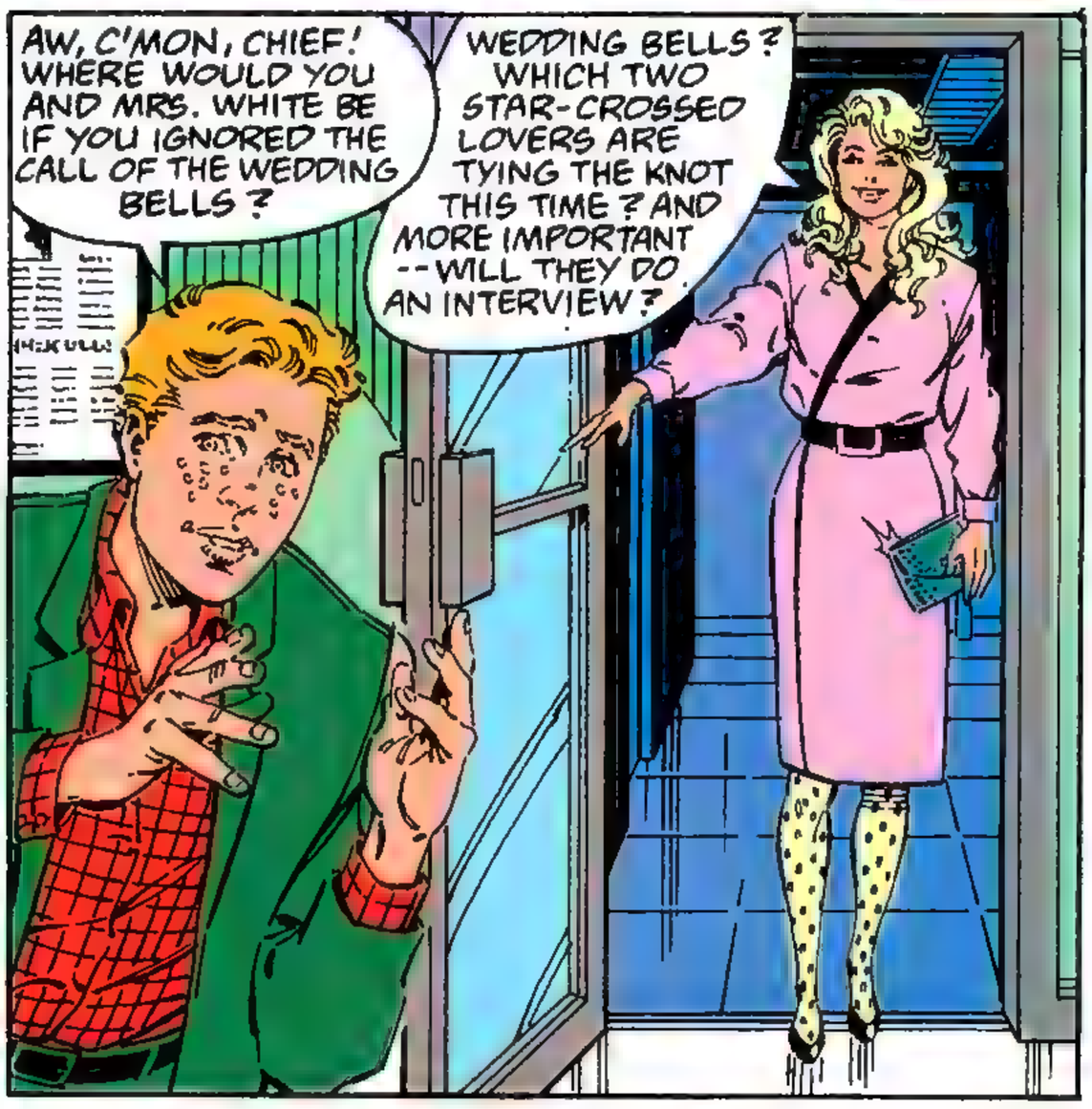
WHY HASN'T SOMEBODY PUT THEM OUT OF COMMISSION BY NOW?

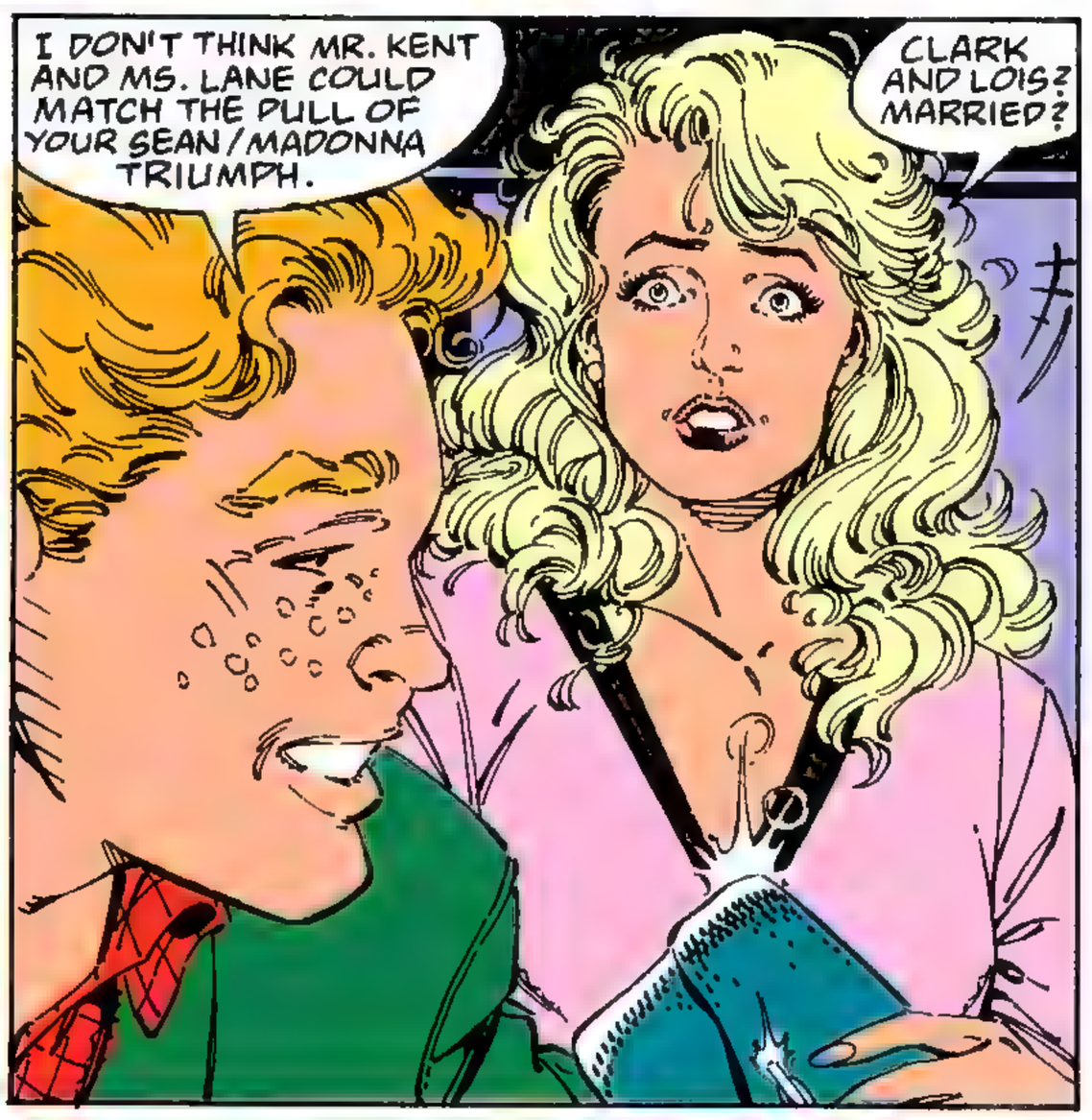
THAT CAN BE ARRANGED, *S-MAN!*

BWAH HA HA!

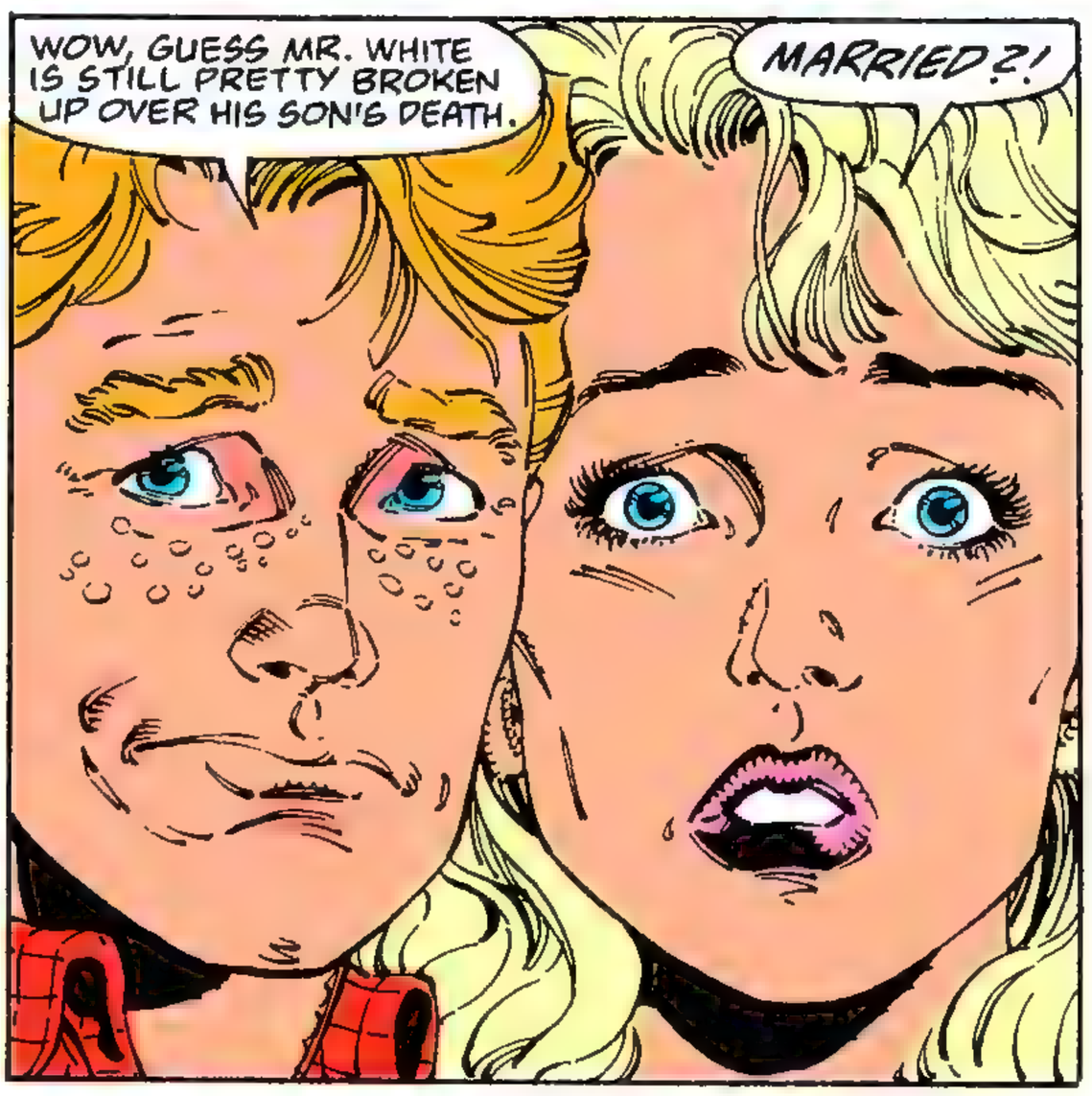

I SAY CLARK AND LOIS DESERVE THE BIGGEST PARTY SINCE PRINCE CHARLES AND LADY DI HITCHED UP!


I MEAN, THEY'D DO THE SAME FOR ANY OF US, RIGHT?
AN ENGAGEMENT PARTY--IN THE OFFICE--I LOVE IT!
YOU CAN COUNT ME IN, JIMMY!
HRRUMPH! I HOPE THOSE TWO KIDS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GETTING INTO.
LEXCORP


AW, C'MON, CHIEF! WHERE WOULD YOU AND MRS. WHITE BE IF YOU IGNORED THE CALL OF THE WEDDING BELLS?
WEDDING BELLS? WHICH TWO STAR-CROSSED LOVERS ARE TYING THE KNOT THIS TIME? AND MORE IMPORTANT --WILL THEY DO AN INTERVIEW?


I DON'T THINK MR. KENT AND MS. LANE COULD MATCH THE PULL OF YOUR SEAN/MADONNA TRIUMPH.
CLARK AND LOIS? MARRIED?

ISN'T THAT A KICK? 'COURSE, WE'LL WANT YOU AT THE PARTY... AND YOU, TOO, MR. WHITE!
MY GOSH. LOIS AND CLARK?
OKAY, OKAY, OLSEN, I'LL BE HERE. NOW GET BACK TO WORK!


WOW, GUESS MR. WHITE IS STILL PRETTY BROKEN UP OVER HIS SON'S DEATH.
MARRIED?!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU STOPPED ME!

WAKE UP, GARDNER! WHEN I SAID, "PUT THEM OUT OF COMMISSION", I WASN'T SERIOUS!

HOW THE HECK WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?

SHHH! LOOK AT ALL THE CABLES CONNECTING THE ALIEN COLUMN TO THE BASE WALLS.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IDIOT FISK? HE'S STILL TRYING TO KEEP US AWAY FROM THAT THING!

NO! GET AWAY FROM THIS! GET AWAY!

AHH, TELL IT TO THE MARINES, COLONEL SANDERS!

WHAT'S THE HAPS DOWN THERE, MR. MAN?

THESE CABLES SUBDIVIDE AND CONNECT TO EVERY COMPUTER SYSTEM ON BASE!

PROBABLY SERVES AS A COMMUNICATIONS RELAY TO THE ALIEN SHIP!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

WE GO TO THE SOURCE!

BRAAAAAAAAM

WEIRD! THIS ALLOY IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN.

RING SAYS IT'S PLENTY OLD, TOO-- BEEN HERE FOR YEARS! PROBABLY EVEN BEFORE FISK'S BASE UP THERE!

THERE'S THE SHIP! IT MUST HOLD THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!

GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH 'EM,,,CUZ MY RING SAYS JORDAN'S DEFINITELY INSIDE!

KRANG

GARDNER--WE WERE WAY OFF! THIS IS A ONE-MAN OPERATION!

BUT LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT ONE MAN! NO WONDER JORDAN COULDN'T GET OUT!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THAT JERK IS SIPHONING POWER OFF HIS POWER BATTERY!

GLAD TO SEE MY DISTRESS SIGNAL WORKED--BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU COME ALONE?

LONG STORY,,, TRUTH IS I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRACK YOU DOWN MYSELF. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

THIS SHIP CRASHED CENTURIES AGO,,, WHILE THE PILOT WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION,,,

AND WHEN UNCLE SAM BUILT THAT BASE UP ABOVE, ITS ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE TRIPPED THE SHIP'S COMPUTERS AND WOKE THE PILOT UP A FEW MONTHS AGO!

HE EVEN HELPED CREATE A FEW LIFE FORMS BY INVADING THE BASE AND TAKING PSYCHIC CONTROL OF THE GENERAL!

ONCE HE'S RECHARGED HIS SHIP'S BATTERIES HE FIGURES TO BLAST HIS WAY FREE *THROUGH* THE GROUND--MIGHT EVEN TAKE THE BASE WITH HIM.

NOT IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO--! UH OH.

ZAKK

FREEDOM IS NOT AN OPTION. INTERFERENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

HOLY--! CAN'T BELIEVE MY BATTERY WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KNOCK *SUPERMAN* FOR A LOOP!

THE ALIEN MUST BE SUPPLEMENTING ITS POWER!

:UHN: CAN'T MOVE--!

THE ALIEN'S WILL POWER IS TOO--STRONG-- TO FIGHT!

I ONLY HAVE SECONDS TO ACT BEFORE GOLIATH TURNS HIS ATTENTION BACK ON ME!

HOPE SUPERMAN WEAKENED THIS LOCK ENOUGH...!:UNGHFF!:

THERE!

KRAK

ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT IF I'M GOING TO BE ANY HELP AT ALL--

--I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GET TO MY BATTERY...

...TO RECHARGE MY RING!

IT'S IGNORING ME--

--AS THOUGH I'M NOT WORTH THE BOTHER!

BIG...

...BIG...

...MISTAKE!

KTSSH

NOW WE DO THIS MY WAY!

I MAY HAVE MY BATTERY BACK BUT THE ALIEN STILL WIELDS THE ENERGY HE STOLE!

HE CAN'T *DRAW* POWER LIKE HE *WAS BEFORE*, BUT HE *COULD* STILL POSSIBLY HAVE *ENOUGH* TO DO SOME *SERIOUS* DAMAGE!

YOU GUYS OKAY?

BATTERED BUT FINE. THOSE RING'S OF YOURS ARE WAY MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT.

THEY GET THE JOB DONE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO. IF THIS SHIP'S BATTERIES *ARE* FULLY CHARGED--

--MR. BUNYAN THERE HAS ENOUGH POWER TO BLAST HIMSELF UP TO THE SURFACE.., *AND* TAKE HALF OF WYOMING WITH HIM!

WE HAVE TO *TAKE* THE ENERGY *BACK* AND *STOP* HIM!

HIS WILL POWER IS PROBABLY STRONGER THAN ANY *ONE* OF US! BUT TOGETHER--

HE'S FIRING HIS THRUSTERS! THE SHIP IS *MOVING*!

WOW, YOU DON'T MISS A TRICK, DO YOU, BIG BLUE?

RRRRRRUMBLE

GET TOGETHER! FOCUS YOUR MINDS ON RECLAIMING THE ENERGY! COMBINED, WE CAN *OVERCOME* HIM!

I'M *NEW* AT THIS BUT I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!

GEEZ, I *HATE* THIS TOUCHY, FEELY STUFF!

POUR IT ON! WE HAVE TO ISOLATE THE ENERGY COLLECTOR!

IT'S WORKING-- *IT'S WORKING!*

OUR POWER RINGS ARE EXTRICATING THE STOLEN ENERGY RIGHT OUT OF THE SHIP'S ENGINES!

NEVER GAVE IT MUCH THOUGHT BEFORE--

--BUT I COULD MAKE AN EASY *FORTUNE* DOING FIREWORKS DISPLAYS!

I DON'T HEAR THE THRUSTERS ANY MORE AND THERE'S NO MORE VIBRATION.

THE ENGINES HAVE SHUT DOWN! THIS GUY ISN'T GOING ANY-WHERE!

THEN MY FATE IS SEALED.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I WALK THE MAJESTIC HILLS OF MY HOME WORLD.

MY LAST YEARS WILL BE SPENT SUFFOCATING DEEP IN THIS *SQUALID* SOLAR PLANET.

LOOK, WE STOPPED YOU... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T... OR *WON'T* HELP!

HOW COME EXTRATERRESTRIALS ARE ALWAYS COMING HERE AND CAUSING ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE... *INSTEAD OF* ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS *ASK*!

I... I ...VERY WELL... *PLEASE*... I *BEG* YOU TO HELP.

RELINQUISH CONTROL OF THE GENERAL FIRST AND WE'LL USE OUR COLLECTED POWER TO FREE YOU.

SECONDLY, TAKE DREADNAUGHT AND PSI-PHON WITH YOU.

I DON'T *EVER* WANT TO SEE THEM AGAIN.

OPERATION DIG OUT IS LOOKIN' GOOD, GENERAL FISK.' THE BASE REPORTS NO DAMAGE.'

GREAT.' YOU BOYS KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM THE ALIEN SHIP!

WE SURE DON'T NEED ANY MID-AIR COLLISIONS HERE!

HARD TO BELIEVE SUPERMAN AND THE LANTERNS DUG A TUNNEL OVER A MILE LONG THAT QUICK!

AND A BIG TUNNEL, TO BOOT! THAT SHIP IS BIGGER THAN AN AIR CRAFT CARRIER!

PSSST... YOU GUYS NOTICE HOW... UH... NICE FISK'S BEEN THE LAST HOUR OR SO?

WELL, JORDAN, LOOKS LIKE I HAULED YOUR KEESTER OUTTA THE FIRE AGAIN.'

CUT THE SELF-ADULATION AND KEEP CHARGING THE SHIP'S BATTERIES FOR SPACE FLIGHT.'

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM THE CAPABILITY TO REACH HOME--

--ONCE SUPERMAN'S BOOSTED HIM CLEAR OF EARTH'S GRAVITY.'

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY, STRANGER.

AS ONE WHO KNOWS THE PAIN OF EXILE--

--I CERTAINLY PRAY YOU FIND THE PEACE YOU DESERVE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

end

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 040 Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite

"Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite, Part One", first appeared in Superman issue #49, released September, 1990
Jerry Ordway (writer), Dennis Janke (penciller), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker), Jerry Ordway (inker)

"Clark Kent -- Man of Steel!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #472, released September, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

"Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite Part Two/A: The End of a Legend?", first appeared in Starman issue #28, released September, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), Dave Hoover (penciller), Dave Hoover (inker), Scott Hanna (inker)

"Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite, Part 3: Breakout", first appeared in Action Comics issue #659, released September, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker)

"The Human Factor", first appeared in Superman issue #50, released October, 1990
Jerry Ordway (writer), Curt Swan (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Jerry Ordway (penciller), John Byrne (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Dennis Janke (inker), Jerry Ordway (inker), John Byrne (inker)

"Chicago", first appeared in Superman and Savage Dragon: Chicago issue #1, released November, 2001
Erik Larsen (writer), Erik Larsen (penciller), Al Gordon (inker)

"Rings of Fire", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #473, released October, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

49
NOV 90

SUPERMAN®

BY JERRY ORDWAY & DENNIS JANKE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

LEX LUTHOR:™ TRIUMPHANT!

DA ORDSTER

DON'T MISS
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN NO. 472
IN 1 WEEK!

KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE PART ONE

DC

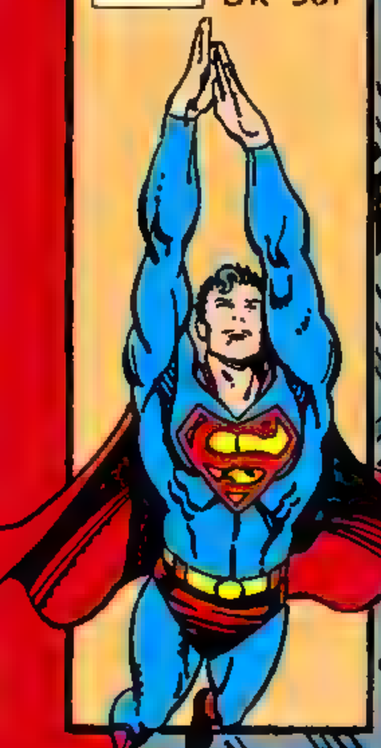
472
NOV 90

US .75¢
CAN .95¢
UK 50P

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

BY JURGENS AND THIBERT



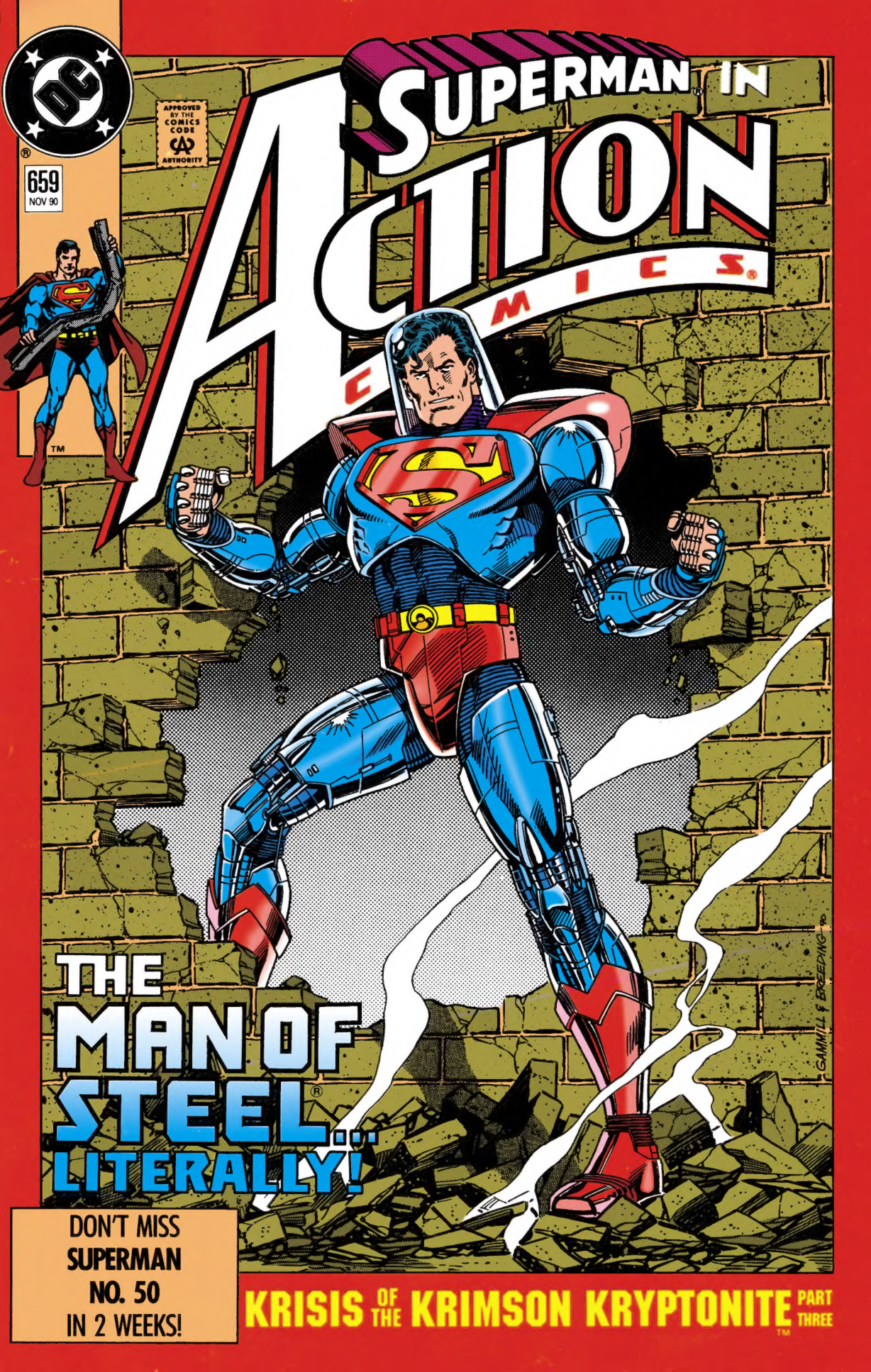
WITHOUT POWERS...

...WITHOUT HOPE!

DON'T MISS
STARMAN
NO. 28
ON SALE NOW!

KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE™ PART TWO

DC
28
NOV 90
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
STARMAN
STERN
HOOVER
& HANNA
STOP!
YOU'RE KILLING
SUPERMAN!
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAVE HOOVER
KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE PART TWO/A
DON'T MISS
ACTION COMICS
NO. 659
IN 1 WEEK!


SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
659
NOV 90
THE MAN OF STEEL... LITERALLY!
DON'T MISS SUPERMAN NO. 50 IN 2 WEEKS!
KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE PART THREE
GAMMILL & BREEDING

DC

50
DEC 90

SUPERMAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SPECIAL 48 PAGE ISSUE!

YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE THE LAST PAGE!

JERRY ORDWAY

FIFTY

ISSUES!

BACK TO FULL POWER!

BY
BREEDING
BYRNE
GAMMILL
JANKE
JURGENS
ORDWAY
& SWAN

KRISIS OF THE KRIMSON KRYPTONITE™ PART FOUR

SUPERMAN • SAVAGE DRAGON

CHICAGO

ERIK LARSEN AND AL GORDON WITH REUBEN RUDE

DC
image

473
DEC 90
US .75¢
CAN .95¢
UK 50P

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BEWARE THEIR POWER!

BY DAN JURGENS AND ART THIBERT

DON'T MISS
ACTION COMICS
NO. 660
IN 1 WEEK!